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Latin America Report

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OECS MOLLIFIES MONTserrat ANGER AT EXCLUSION FROM MEETINGS

FL271832 Bridgetown CANA in English 1458 GMT 25 May 86

[Text] Castries, 25 May (CANA)--A rift between Montserrat and independent members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has been resolved.

Montserrat, one of two non-independent territories within the seven-member OECS, had complained about not having been invited to attend the group's separate discussions with Guyana leader Desmond Hoyte and also with President Reagan.

Montserrat had also said it would withdraw from the OECS and the wider Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) if it did not get an acceptable explanation for the exclusion.

However, the tiny British colony accepted a week-end statement from the independent OECS states explaining their position.

The statement, released by the central secretariat here, reiterates the organization's commitment to preserving the principle and practice of equality of treatment of member states.

The OECS states regretted the situation brought about by Montserrat's non-involvement, and promised to ensure that such potentially divisive situations be averted in future and that full consensus is maintained among its members.

The statement noted that certain decisions of a foreign policy nature cannot be given legal assent by all OECS member states, since the non-independent ones do not have the legal capacity to do so.

However, the independent states said that given the close relationship between foreign policy matters and issues relating to regional stability and development, the maximum possible consultation on such matters should take place within the framework of the organisation.

Referring to the recent discussions with Reagan and Hoyte, the states said these were not organized under the auspices of the OECS. Further, it was felt that protocol requirements could not accommodate the participation of all

OECS states as governments represented at the discussions would have wished, the OECS states said.

They have agreed that the issues in question should receive the full consideration of the authority at its meeting in St Kitts on 29-30 May, the statement noted.

It added, the states have however expressed the hope that there will be full participation of member states at the next meeting of the authority and that the government of Montserrat will be presented to play its full part in the important discussions that are to take place.

In a response, which was communicated to the chairman of the authority, Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds of St Kitts, Montserrat's Chief Minister John Osborne said: The government and people of Montserrat said they are prepared in the interest of regional unity to accept the statement.... We note the principle of universality and look forward to continuing a close and cordial relationship with all members of the OECS.

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CSO: 3298/461

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

GRENADA DEMANDS ACCORD WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO AIRLINE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 86 p 1

[Text]

ST GEORGE'S, May 25, Cana — GRENADA has told Trinidad and Tobago's State-owned airline, BWIA International, that it will need an agreement with Grenada Airways in order to continue landing at Point Saline International Airport.

According to Civil Aviation Minister, Dr Keith Mitchell, the Grenada Government has given BWIA one month to open discussions with Grenada Airways on the issue or

face the necessary consequences which include a termination of flights.

"We expect that they would... within 30 days have a serious meeting with the top level management to discuss the whole question of a positive arrangement between Grenada Airways and BWIA because we believe that both of them can serve Grenada well," he told Cana.

Dr Mitchell stated that the letter was despatched to BWIA about two weeks ago and that he expected positive discussions to start between the two airlines within the next ten days.

Blatant Disregard

He said Grenada was forced to send the letter after BWIA informed the island that it could not at the present time have an inter-line agreement with Grenada Airways.

"We told them (BWIA) very firmly that as a government we could not sit by and to see that blatant disregard for the country's national airline," he said.

"We also told them that if they want to continue to have the kind of relationship that we believe would be

fruitful for both Grenada and BWIA, we believe that they must sit down (and talk)," Dr Mitchell added.

He expressed disappointment with BWIA's decision to reject the agreement which he said is a normal pact between airlines.

He accused BWIA of adopting a very selfish approach to the question of transportation to and from Grenada.

The two airlines operate international services to Grenada from both Miami and New York.

Dr Mitchell said that BWIA had demonstrated since the setting up of Grenada Airways the feeling that it would create unfair competition and make it difficult for them in terms of passenger load in the Caribbean.

He stressed that Grenada had been consistently telling BWIA that Grenada Airways would not affect them but if necessary help in opening new markets and encourage people to travel to the Caribbean.

"We have had to make it clear to BWIA that we want rationalisation of transportation in the Caribbean, and we support the question of BWIA serving the Caribbean but it must be done in conjunction with other organisations that can serve the Caribbean properly," he added.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

JUDGE IN TIM HECTOR CONSTITUTIONALITY CASE TRANSFERRED

St Johns OUTLET in English 16 May 86 p 1

[Text] Justice Albert Matthew, who last Wednesday May 7 delivered a historic judgment declaring Section 33B(b) of the Public Order Act unconstitutional has been transferred out of Antigua.

ACLM Chairman and Outlet Editor Leonard Tim Hector, had been charged several times under this section, 33B(b) of the Public Order Act as a result of several revelations in Outlet, exposing high crimes and misdemeanours in the government led by 75 year old Vere Cornwall Bird.

Hector, who had been sentenced to three months imprisonment, without the option of a fine, challenged the constitutionality of Section 33B(b) of the law in Court.

After several adjournments Hector's Constitutional motion was eventually heard on March 24, 25, 26. Justice Albert

Matthew, the trial judge who is a lecturer in law at the UWI Trinidad, had been seconded to Antigua to replace Justice Byron now Acting Chief Justice of Grenada.

Justice Matthew was to have been in Antigua said Chief Justice Rowbotham until the return of Justice Byron.

Now Court sources have disclosed that Justice Matthew has been transferred to St Lucia, to "deal with a huge back log of cases there." This sudden transferring so swiftly on the heels of the historic judgement has raised legal eyebrows here.

However, Outlet did not and could not find any connection between the Judge's sudden transfer and his historic judgement last week, which made constitutional history in Antigua. It is the first law to be declared unconstitutional since Antigua attained independence in November 1, 1981.

Meanwhile Attorney General Keith Forde, is reported to be in a hurry to get the judgement of Justice Albert Matthew declaring Section 33B(b) of the Public Order Act unconstitutional. He is said to have ordered Court typists to have the judgment on his desk post haste despatch or else.... Attorney General Forde is said to have declared that he will Appeal the judgement come what may.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

\$92,000 'RIPOFF' IN PUBLIC WORKS CHARGED BY ACLM ORGAN

St Johns OUTLET in English 16 May 86 pp 1, 2

[Text] Public Works officials would not confirm or deny that an estimated \$92,000 has been ripped from public funds.

This is the second major heist of public funds to be recorded in two years in that Ministry.

It is the third such, if one counts the massive rip-off of galvanise from that Ministry by senior Ministry officials who had higher official compliance in their wrong-doing.

As with so much else, everything the Bird regime touches turns to corruption. They are the opposite to the mythical King Midas whose every touch produced gold.

The new \$92,000 rip off at Public Works only surfaced when the government paid back-pay to its non-established workers.

Then it was ordered, that every worker had to collect his back-pay himself or herself and no one could send another to collect his back-pay.

This refusal to allow proxies to collect back-pay, opened a can of worms in the corrupt administration of the Bird regime.

It seemed that a number of clerks who were politically hired in the civil service, and who believe that they have the unlimited support of their corrupt ruling party leadership in wrong-doing, over a period of time did serious wrong.

A number of non-existent people were put on the pay-roll weekly and their pay collected and pocketed by the politically hired clerks, who, without the ruling party would never have occupied such positions in the Civil Service.

The ruling ALP has debased the Civil Service by hiring a number of workers who receive higher pay than regular civil servants, and who are favoured with advancement in the service.

The upshot of this is that regular Civil Servants feel side-lined and virtually work to rule, leaving the untrained political appointees to work havoc with public service and worse with public funds.

From our independent investigations we have learnt that a few 'clerks' at

Public Works, lived like their leaders, in high style, by padding the pay-roll week after week.

In an effort to hush-up this wholesale and large-scale embezzlement of public funds, the regime is asking the clerks concerned to pay back **some** of the stolen money which can be directly traced to them. An unknown amount will go down the drain.

Outlet understands that the authorities dilly-dallied about bringing charges against the several offenders because big-shots, way up in the hierarchy, have been known to have converted public materials to their own personal private use; have used Public Works facilities including trucks and other vehicles, as well as stones, asphalt, electrical saws and building materials to construct their own mansions in which there are many rooms, and other similar projects.

Sources in the know, said that Attorney General Keith Forde had ordered one clerk, out of the several, to pay back as much as \$15,000 by a given date or face prosecution. Others, enjoying greater political protection, were given no such ultimatum, the sources claim.

Over the week-end, the Workers Voice, self-described organ of the industrial arm of the ruling party, announced its shock that a "comrade was arrested". stated the Workers Voice organ of the Ruling Party's industrial arm "A staunch comrade of the Antigua Labour Party was arrested on Thursday and charged in connection with the loss of funds at the Public Works Department."

Continuing the Workers Voice stated "The Cabinet displayed a complete **about turn**" and "washed their little innocent hands of the pleas made on behalf of this unfortunate comrade who had more than three quarters of the stolen money to repay, with the balance to be paid forthwith."

The Workers Voice was shocked by the decision of these "innocents" in the Cabinet, who according to the Workers Voice, is the same "Cabinet which has oft times turned a blind eye on 'big-shots' in government employ who have stolen from the **Holberton Hospital, Customs, Port Authority, Public Works, the Magistrate Court** etc." Aware of how widespread these corrupt practices are the Workers Voice continued "All these persons have been granted un-official pardon. None have repaid the stolen money nor was prosecuted for the money or the materials which they stole. In most cases they were merely transferred to another department of Government."

According to the Workers Voice, the person arrested is "a poor unfortunate lady", who, said the Workers Voice, "had their house burnt while attending a political meeting" of the ruling party, of which she is a "staunch comrade" at 46 North Street.

Recognising that the "big-shots" usually go scot free even when exposed and caught red-handed in their corrupt practices the Workers Voice in conclusion asked rhetorically "Is it really a crime to be poor in this country."

On Wednesday December 12, 1984, \$75,000 miraculously disappeared from a locked vault at the same Public Works.

The money \$73,000 of which was collected from the Treasury to pay workers for the Christmas, was collected the Tuesday and added to cash in hand to make a total of \$75,000 and held overnight after clerks had worked late to allocate the money into individual pay packets for the workers. The money was put in three boxes, lodged and locked in the Public Works vault.

By the morning of Wednesday December 12, all \$75,000 had vanished into thin air leaving not a trace behind.

Contrary to Financial instructions, which govern finances in the Civil Service, the key to the vault was held by an officer well below the rank stipulated by the rules. The low level officer had received official sanction, contrary to the rules, to have and hold the key to the Public Works vault.

After Outlet revealed, and after the following nine days talk, all investigations into the vanishing \$75,000 which disappeared from the locked vault, which was locked up to the time the money was discovered missing, ceased.

Now this \$92,000 heist, which is only an estimate, will go very much the same way. Corruption, under the Bird regime has surpassed Tourism as the main industry.

The official cover-up of the recent rip-off of Public funds at Public Works further shows that official cover-up of corruption is the number one policy pursued by the Bird regime.

Public Works officials refused to speak to Outlet on the phone, and slammed the telephone on Outlet reporters, who sought official information about the latest rip-off at Public Works.

A tight lid is being kept on yet another instance of corruption under the Bird administration. The head is as rotten as the tail.

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2 July 1986

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ALP, ATLU STATE LABOR DAY RALLY OF 'THOUSANDS'

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 14 May 86 p 1

[Text]

The ruling Antigua Labour Party, assisted by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union, in spite of many setbacks, were once again able to put thousands of marching feet on the road on Labour Day.

The party organized meetings all over the country in order to whip up support for the rally and other functions during Labour week. The staging of a Queen show was re-organized by the Honourable Minister of Labour and proved quite successful. It was staged at the Carnival Bowl cinema and Miss Eileen Bernard of Potters Village won from five other contestants. The Thanksgiving Service was held for the very first time at the Salvation Army Hall on the Sunday before Labour Day.

Since the amalgamation of the

National Democratic Party and the survivors of the United People Party, who adopted the new name of the United National Democratic Party, speculation was that the A.L.P. would not be able to put up a good show on Labour Day. It was felt that in spite of the progress which the country has been making economically, the Government treatment of workers left a lot to be desired. Some observers expected the crowd to be much smaller, but as usual the A.L.P. rose to the occasion and got the crowds out by the thousands.

The gathering was addressed at the West Bus Station by the Hon. Prime Minister and the president of the union Sen. William Robinson.

The Rally ended at Fort James where all and sundry enjoyed themselves.

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS IN PROTEST WALKOUT

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 14 May 86 p 1

[Text] Justice Albert

Employers at the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters in Long Street, last week walked off their jobs and refused to return to their desks.

For some time now the employees have been complaining of the deplorable condition of the office and the health hazards under which they have to work daily. All complaints have as usual, when dealing with this all powerful government have fallen on deaf ears. The workers could stand it no longer and refused on Wednesday to sit at their desks, and all gathered outside the Ministry. The building in which these young women are requested is a disgrace. It is not only a health hazard but a fire hazard also. Red ants, rodents, roaches and wood lice infest the building. Employers cannot put down

their lunches for 10 minutes before they are attacked by ants, roaches and rats. Old paper files are bundled on the rotten boards which comprises the floor and are covered with dust and insects. They have not been cleaned nor moved for the last 10 years. One spark and the whole building would go up in flames in seconds. There is only one exit down some shaky and rotten steps.

The 'fast fading' minister, who was brought up in a small house in the village of Willikies, occupies an air-conditioned office in the same building. As soon as current goes off he bolts for the door and that is it for the day.

The A.J.L.U. has reported the matter to the Labour Department and ask that an inspector be sent to order the rat-trap closed.

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2 July 1986

BAHAMAS

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE \$3 MILLION IN AID

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 May 86 p 4

[Text]

A DELEGATION from the Commission of Economic Communities held talks with a local team headed by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Sir Lynden Pindling and agreed for the Bahamas to receive three million in European Currency Units (ECUs) as "programmable resources."

The Community's financial commitments are expressed in ECUs, one of which is equal to about one Bahamian dollar.

Michel Hauswirth, Deputy Director-General for Development with the European grouping, headed the visiting delegation.

According to the visitors, 72 million ECUs "could be earmarked" by the European community for regional operations in the "Caribbean sub-region."

The European delegation, which included Justin Loasby of the European Investment Bank (EIB), departed the Bahamas on May 9.

"The aim of these meetings was to draw up the indicative programme of Community aid

for the Bahamas, in accordance with the provisions of the Third Convention of Lome between the ACP States and the European Economic Community," said a "joint press release" issued by the Ministry of Finance.

"Fruitful discussions took place in a very constructive atmosphere of mutual cooperation," the release said.

The two delegations conducted an exchange of views on the different aspects of cooperation between the Bahamas and the Community, particularly those connected with the implementation of the Third Lome Convention.

"In order to ensure that optimum use is made of the instruments and means provided under the Convention, the two delegations, on the basis of the preparatory work carried out by their representatives, held full discussions on the development priorities and objectives for the Bahamas," said the release.

"For the attainment of these objectives" the Bahamas will be given three million ECUs: two million in the form of grants and one million in special loans.

The European delegation stated that its financial package for the Bahamas does not include additional resources which may be allocated during the lifetime of the Lome Convention by way of "non-programmable resources" managed by the European group.

These "non-programmable resources" include such items as transfers from the Stabex system and possible allocations for emergency aid.

The European Investment

Bank will be able to help finance "productive capital projects" which meet its criteria and statutory rules and which conform to the Third Lome Convention.

"Following their exchange of views, the two delegations agreed that the Community's aid would be focused on the economic infrastructure sector, in order to assist the Government's strategy to improve the social and economic conditions of the rural populations of the Family Islands," said the news release.

The delegations agreed that these objectives could best be achieved by "financing equipment" and a programme of works for electricity supply to these populations.

"The two delegations also held an exchange of views on the ways of stepping up regional cooperation in the Caribbean sub-region."

In this context, the European delegation said that 72 million ECUs could be earmarked for regional operations in the Caribbean sub-region.

"Upon completion of the negotiations between the two delegations, the indicative programme of Community aid was signed jointly on behalf of the Bahamas by the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance" and on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities by Mr Hauswirth and, in matters relating to the European Investment Bank, Mr Loasby.

During its stay here, the visiting delegation was scheduled to travel to one of the Family Islands where Community aid will be concentrated.

2 July 1986

BAHAMAS

INTERPOL LAW ON DRUG PROFITS WILL NOT AFFECT BANK SECRECY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 86 p 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

POLICE Commissioner Gerald Bartlett said recently that legislation prepared by Interpol to strike at the profits of criminal activity, including drug trafficking, will not affect the Bahamas bank secrecy laws.

Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall said there is "no question of invasion of privacy." He said the honest, upright citizen has nothing to fear about what the legislation attempts to achieve.

Mr Kendall said that some law ministers from the region also assisted in the preparation of the legislation and that Interpol only wanted to be united with the banks in attacking the same problem.

The model legislation on tracing, seizing and forfeiture of criminal assets was prepared by Interpol's Third Working Group. It was recommended by the Fourth Working Group which met last week in Nassau for enactment by governments in the Caribbean and other member states.

If enacted, the legislation will go a long way towards providing the tools necessary to successfully investigate and prosecute those involved in money laundering as well as provide the mechanism to cause the forfeiture of the proceeds of drug trafficking and other serious criminal activity.

At a press conference at the Paradise Towers Hotel this morning, Commissioner Bartlett was asked how would

the divulging of information affect the bank secrecy laws in the Bahamas.

"I don't see that affecting the bank secrecy laws at all," Mr Bartlett said. "It is not that you cannot get information from the banks but you must go about it in the proper way. They will not affect the bank secrecy laws at all."

It was then pointed out to Mr Bartlett that Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard had recently said in Coral Gables, Florida, that the Bahamas was not going to give any more information than it does at present.

He was then asked: "If that is the case, whether you go about it the right way or not, will you be able to get information that makes you aware of who and from where large sums of money are being deposited in this country?"

"We may not be able to do this," the Commissioner replied.

Deputy Commissioner Dudley Hanna, who chaired last week's Fourth Working Group meeting, said that what was discussed during the May 8-9 meeting was model legislation that will be circulated to countries which are members of Interpol for their governments to consider whether they want to introduce such legislation.

"What we have done was just to produce a model," the Deputy Commissioner added.

Asked how, if the model were

rejected by member countries, Interpol would be able to continue its war against drugs, Interpol's Secretary General Raymond Kendall said he did not think they should be led into a "misconception of what we are trying to do and what we are trying to get at."

Mr Kendall said that the moment one mentioned bank secrecy, everyone thought the idea behind it was to make it easy for the police to be able to inquire into people's personal bank accounts and everything else.

"That is not what is in issue, because in most countries...and we are saying that this model legislation covers a number of the aspects that will help us in carrying out our financial investigations...and in many countries, including the Bahamas, there are legal ways of obtaining information from bank accounts about proceeds of crime and proven crime," Mr Kendall said.

He said that even those countries, such as Switzerland, that are supposed to be financial havens, "they would be the first country if you can show to them that money is of illegal origin, you can get the information."

"There are legal ways of getting it and it's controlled and the police can't do it in an uncontrolled fashion," he said. "They are controlled by the magistrature and they have proper court orders to do this."

"When we speak about the banking profession and our relationship with the banking profession, we would think that the banking profession should have the same sense of responsibility as anybody else should," he said.

"When somebody comes into their bank with a suitcase full of money, that they don't just take it and open up a bank account," Mr Kendall said. "They say who are you and where did this money come from, and to us that appears to be an ethical issue."

"We think that it is perfectly natural and any honest, upright citizen isn't going to mind being asked where his money came from or anything else," he said.

"So there is no question of an invasion of privacy of the normal, honest, upright citizen having anything to fear about what we are trying to do, and that's the important point we would like to make and we would like the banking profession to work with us in taking these resources which the traffickers rely on to perpetuate their activities," he said.

Mr Kendall said he is talking about enormous sums of money which affected even the economies of countries.

"Why should that money remain in illicit circles when it could be used by the governments to do so much better," he said.

"And our point is that the governments, once they see this legislation, and we have sent it to law ministers, we don't make the laws, it's the governments which make the laws, we have sent it to law ministers and in fact some law ministers from this region in fact participated in the preparation of this legislation," he said.

"So I want to make it clear that when we are speaking about our association with the banking profession, it is because we want to be united in attacking the same problem."

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CSO: 3298/472

BAHAMAS

HAITIAN CONSUL PROTESTS GOVERNMENT ROUNDUP OF EXILES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 23 May 86 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE BAHAMAS was asked today if it wanted to break off diplomatic relations with Haiti in light of Thursday's surprise, pre-dawn round-up of hundreds of exiles in Nassau and Grand Bahama.

Haitian Consul-General Evans Francois, who cut his trip to Haiti short and returned here last night, said the raid was an insult and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had told him they had been kept in the dark about it.

"I cannot understand why Mr Roker did it without notifying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have international relations. This is the first time since I have been in diplomacy that I have encountered something like this," he said.

This is the second time in three months that National Security Minister Loftus Roker has ordered a round-up without notifying Foreign Affairs.

Mr Francois said some Bahamian officials do not seem to have any respect for human rights.

The raid happened less than 24 hours after Catholic Bishop Lawrence Burke called on Government to release imprisoned Haitians who appear to be entitled to citizenship under a new treaty.

Mr Francois said about 350 Haitians were rounded-up, between 40-45 in Grand Bahama

and the rest in Nassau. National Security permanent secretary H C Walkine said 230 were picked up in Nassau and 47 in Grand Bahama. Mr Francois said he would investigate reports of brutality.

Mr Francois was meeting with new Haitian leader Lt Gen Henri Namphy at the National Palace, Port au Prince, yesterday to try to devise a strategy to stop illegal immigration when his wife telephoned him about the round-up.

He arrived in Nassau yesterday evening and, with two suitcases in hand, went straight from the airport to Central Police Station where, it is understood, he asked to be arrested so that he might be with his people.

"I cannot sleep. My nationals are in jail. I have to see them. It is an emergency," the worn looking consul-general told The Tribune in the visiting room at Central Station last night.

"I am very upset. There is no respect for human rights. I cannot sleep tonight until I see someone from Foreign Affairs."

At the George Street Embassy today, he said a meeting had been arranged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 4.30 pm. He spoke to officials on the telephone this morning.

"I explained to them that if the Bahamas Government

doesn't want to cooperate with the Haitian Government anymore, if they want to put an end to relations between the Bahamas and Haiti, I said that since I've been here, I make a bigger effort to help the Bahamian Government to solve the illegal immigration problem."

And later, "I asked if the Bahamas Government wants to put an end to the relations."

On April 15, shortly after Mr Francois' arrival, about 300 Haitians were repatriated.

Since April 28 - through the efforts of Mr Francios and the Catholic, Baptist and Adventists Churches - 143 Haitians have returned home voluntarily and at their own expense.

Mr Francios allowed The Tribune to study a book in which the names of the 143 Haitians are recorded.

He said that every Saturday, a Bahamasair plane flies to South Caicos. A Caicos plane then goes to Cape Haitien. He said these flights have recently been crowded.

"This is the way I show the Bahamas Government my willingness to cooperate. In addition to that, I talked to officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On April 28 I told them I would go to Haiti and make the Haitian Government make a strategy (to combat illegal immigration)," he said.

The plan would be aimed at human smugglers.

"While I am out of this

country, they (National Security) make a round-up. They don't understand the way I sacrificed myself to cooperate. That's why I was talking to Mr O'Brien this morning. I asked him if the Bahamas Government wanted to put an end to the relations."

Mr Francois made it clear that his complaint was not against Foreign Affairs officials or the police.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not aware of the round-up. I cannot understand the Ministry of National Security doing a round-up without consulting Foreign Affairs. When a government gets involved in diplomatic relations, it is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is something I cannot understand in this country," he said.

"Everything must be done by regulations, in a specified way. But the way they did it, it means something."

Mr Francois said that, as far as he is aware, not one Haitian has benefitted from a treaty signed between the Bahamas and Haiti last September.

Under the treaty, Haitians who have lived illegally in the Bahamas prior to the end of 1980 would receive legal status provided they have no criminal record and were working the day the treaty was signed.

Both countries condemned the "evil and the oppressive apartheid regime" at the signing.

[THE TRIBUNE of 24 May, page 1, adds the following: "Fifty of an estimated 200 Haitians, who were rounded up by Immigration authorities in the Carmichael Road area Thursday, were charged before Magistrate Cleopatra Christie Friday with landing illegally in the Bahamas. Up to 4 pm Friday, 45 others filled the court waiting to be charged while 50 more waited to be taken inside the courtroom to be charged. It is understood they will be repatriated sometime next week.]

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BAHAMAS

PLP, FNM CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE ATTACKS AT PUBLIC RALLIES

Isaacs Charges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 May 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs told hundreds of supporters at a rally in Centreville last night that to win the next election the ruling Progressive Liberal Party is trying to "destroy" him.

Addressing the rally at the Columbus Primary School on Collins Avenue and Wulff Road, Mr Isaacs said that if young people followed the example set by the PLP, they would turn out to be just as corrupt.

"I am not...I repeat...I am not the issue," Mr Isaacs declared. "But I am flattered because it seems to me that they realize that in order for them to win the next election they will have to destroy me.

"And by God, they are certainly trying their best so to do, but that is not going to happen, that is not going to happen," Mr Isaacs said.

The Opposition Leader was referring to charges made against him by former Cabinet Minister Kendal Nottage that he had defrauded the Public Treasury of \$19,600 on a \$200,000 sale of land in 1979.

Mr Isaacs denied the allegation at an FNM rally last Thursday in Yellow Elder Gardens and said he had paid the Public Treasury \$20,000, the full amount in stamp duty on the \$200,000 sale of land.

Mr Nottage made his allegation at a PLP rally in Freeport April 29 and at a press conference held in his office yesterday he elaborated on his charges.

The Opposition Leader has threatened to take out action in the Supreme Court to make Mr Nottage "pay the price of his folly." He said yesterday that his lawyers were looking into the charges made by the St Agnes MP.

"But all I say at this time in reply to Mr Nottage is: It's in the book," Mr Isaacs said.

The Commission of Inquiry found that Mr Nottage had fronted for Salvatore Michael Caruana, a Mafia figure, whether he realized it or not.

"As someone (Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes) was saying earlier, it's in the book and according to the book, they are the ones who were condemned...corruption right into the Cabinet," he said.

"But, you know, maybe this is something that you're not quite aware of," he said. "But my records, my bank accounts were given to Mr (Robert) Ellicott (Chief Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry)."

"He knew exactly what the state of affairs were as far as I was concerned. I wasn't condemned," the Opposition Leader pointed out.

"And you know, Nottage

knows, Pindling knows, that my affairs were looked into in the same way that their affairs were looked into, so all I say, in repeating what I said on Thursday, they are attempting to rewrite that report," he said.

"And if we allow them to, before you know it, the FNM, my colleagues and I, will be the ones who they say should be condemned," he said. "That's the way they would like to have it and they are trying their best to convince unthinking Bahamians that that is the case."

He said it was interesting that a lot of people did not have to read the Commission's report because they were present during most of the hearings.

"But, you know, the one thing I say we must do and that is we must not let them forget the Report of the Commission of Inquiry because in addition to their incompetence, in addition to the unemployment that they have created in this country, in addition to the crime and everything else, there is that corruption which found its way right into the Cabinet," he said.

"If we honest, God-fearing people want to live in a country that respects honesty, that is God-fearing, then how in the world can we elect a PLP, Pindling Government, no way," he said.

Mr Isaacs said that what really disturbed him about the situation in the Bahamas was that "Pindling, Nottage and that crew" are really setting an example that they would like the young people to follow.

"But when you think about it, think about the lies that are being told, think about the corruption that has found its way into the Cabinet, think of the way they have abused certain institutions in this country, the main one, of course, is ZNS, that is the kind of example that they in the PLP are setting for our young people," he said.

"How, with that kind of

example, we wouldn't expect our children, our young people, to be anything but corrupt, criminals, hoodlums, because that is the kind of example that is being set for them," the Opposition Leader said.

"And you know, if for no other reason, because they are setting that kind of example, we should determine, we should commit ourselves to getting rid of them at the first opportunity," he said.

Mr Isaacs said that he believes by his moving about the islands, he realizes that the people who are having their eyes opened, are awakening to the reality of what the PLP Government is doing to the

country.

"And more and more people are becoming sensible as far as understanding and realizing what the PLP Government is doing to this country," he said.

"They would like you to forget they are responsible for the crime, for the unemployment, for the drug trafficking, all these things they had the power to do something about," he said.

"But we of the Free National Movement, we the people of the Bahamas must not let them forget what they have done to this country," he said. "We must remind them day after day after day what the issues are."

Pindling on Elections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Prime Minister Pindling told over 1,000 supporters at the first PLP island-wide rally this year at Christie Park that although he does not know when the next general election will be held, he is "getting ready" for it.

Sir Lynden, who is also Minister of Finance, said the country is on the up-swing after years of managing tight money, heavy inflation and high oil prices.

The Prime Minister, who told supporters at a mini-rally earlier this year to get registered by June, fuelling speculation of an early election, said there is a big difference between a construction gang and a wrecking crew.

"I like to think that we represent the construction gang," he said. "George Wilson and Co, Kendal Isaacs and Co, the wrecking crew. They're against everything. They're going to bust up everything."

The Prime Minister said the issue in the next election will be between the PLP as the construction gang and the FNM as the wrecking crew.

He told supporters he did not know when the election would be held, but according to FNM Deputy Leader Cecil Wallace-Whitfield the election should have been held many times over by now.

"As a matter of fact, ah, Cecil started calling for his poll workers meetings 18 months ago," he said. "Those poll workers have waited so long they have run out of polls."

"I really don't know. I ain't thinking about it. I only getting ready for it, but I ain't thinking about it yet," the Prime Minister said.

"I told Cecil in the House (of Assembly) that the moment I know I'm going to tell him, and that's true I can't keep a secret from him, mind you, I'm going to tell you too, because I can't keep a secret from you either," Mr Whitfield said.

"But at the moment I don't know," he said. "There is too much to do. We are on the upswing. The country, when I say 'we' now, I'm not just talking about PLP's, the country is on the upswing. We've plenty to do."

The Prime Minister told supporters that the people all over the country have needs to be met.

"After years of managing tight money, heavy inflation, high oil prices, this is the first time that we've got a little leeway and we could do a little more, and therefore, if we could do a little more, I want you to believe me, we can do much more," he said.

"But we've got to do it first. There ain't no point in I talking about it, I've got to show it to you, and so we are going to do it," he added.

The Prime Minister said Government is going to try to build some homes, some schools, clean up some areas, and repair and remodel some parks.

"We can't do them all. We ain't going to do them all but we are going to try as much as we can what we can," he said. "And we ain't going to do nothing that is going to break us, we ain't going broke. I tell you that."

He noted that many years ago the FNM said that the Treasury was "going broke."

"This the brokest Treasury in all the world. The Treasury always broke, according to the FNM, but you know something, the same fellow who gets up and say the Treasury is broke, next week he gets up in the House and say when are you going to put the fire station in Carmichael? Put it there with what? Ain't the Treasury Broke?" he said.

He said the Bahamian people cannot be fooled because they know how "this thing" go.

"If it's broke, it's broke. It means you don't have any money to do anything with, and if you know there isn't any money to do anything with, why ask to do something for them?" he asked.

The Prime Minister also predicted the PLP will win six of the 11 seats being held by the FNM, including Yamacraw and Inagua-Mayaguana, with Shirley's being a "potential" PLP seat.

He said the PLP victory in Exuma in the next election will be greater than in the 1967, 1968 or 1972 elections.

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He said the biggest business boom in history is now going on in Delaporte because of the Cable Beach Hotel, which Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, MP for Delaporte, has called a "white elephant."

"That white elephant is causing more development down in that area than you could shake a stick at," he said.

The Prime Minister declared that within the next 30 days, a brand new real estate development will begin in Delaporte.

He noted that on television last night, he saw and heard a manager of RoyWest, which is celebrating 50 years in the Bahamas, say that the last six months has been the most profitable six months in the history of the corporation.

"And this is only half of the year," the Prime Minister said. "I told them don't sleep on this scrap gang. I told them don't sleep."

"Employment is rising, interest rates are falling, inflation is falling, gas prices are falling, electricity rates are falling, I told them don't sleep on this scrap gang," the Prime Minister said.

He disclosed that 100 more houses are going up in Elizabeth Estates and that ground breaking and the placing of infrastructure will start in the Cow Pen Road area in June to begin another estate.

"Our people must be housed," he said, before proceeding to explain what was meant by liquidity.

"Liquidity means that the banks have got a lot of cash, but I know who they are lending the cash to, and since they are lending the cash to us it means that we can buy foolishness," he said.

He said he does not have anything against Bahamians buying bicycles, televisions, tape recorders, and satellites, among other things, but it was Government's responsibility to see that this prosperity went into some real development.

"Something that will be there, not a year, not two years, not three years, not eight years," he said.

He said Bahamians need a front room to put their new televisions in, a new carport to park their vehicles.

"It ain't right to have a magic chef stove in a two by four house, it ain't right," he said. "So you've got to find a way to

provide better housing to put our people."

He said that it "ain't no good if one or two people rise to the top and everybody else stays to the bottom."

He said the Bahamas has got the fastest growing middle class in the whole region in the last 15 years.

"The middle class has expanded double fold, treble fold, quadruple fold," he said. "The middle class has been diminishing in other countries."

He said the Jamaican Prime Minister introduced his budget to parliament this week and the big news in Jamaica's Daily Gleaner was that the prime rate had gone down 33 per cent.

He said that four years ago, the FNM's policy was that the PLP Government should follow the economic formula of Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Government.

"So when you all win, you all follow that. We are going to follow our own formula," he said.

Government Preelection Activity

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 May 86 p1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

FOR THE second straight year prior to an election, an international airport has been announced for Exuma.

Marsh Harbour has been promised a new terminal building for the third time.

South Andros is to get a new docking facility. Electricity poles were put up in Kemp's Bay, the Prime Minister's constituency, just before the last elections. But there is still no electricity.

The "new," \$240,000 Customs warehouse at Nassau International Airport and

\$350,000 airfreight office has now been completed. The complex should have opened in 1983, but was left in a state of near completion for several years.

A barge was sent to Bimini during the last election campaign to move the dump from residential Bailey Town to a more isolated location. The dump stinks and, when garbage is burned, fills the air with thick smoke.

The barge stayed at Bimini for a while, then was sent back to Nassau. The dump was never

moved and still poses a problem to the people.

"Government is obviously gearing up for an election and is trying to mislead the people again with election promises," FNM spokesman Arthur Foulkes said today.

For the past two weeks, a flurry of announcements have been made on public works projects.

The Ministry of Transport said at the weekend it will extend Prince George Dock and improve harbour facilities in Nassau and the Family Islands

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so the cruise ship industry could be extended to some of the islands.

On Monday, the Ministry of Works announced that a \$305,000 contract was signed May 13 for construction of a new terminal building in Marsh Harbour. The Ministry said Bill Swain and Construction Company, the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract. Swain is a staunch PLP supporter.

A new terminal was scheduled to be built in Marsh Harbour in the early eighties and, when nothing happened, a new date was set for 1985.

In Nassau, work on the new \$4.5 million Customs and Immigration buildings has been completed. Over \$1.8 million is being spent on general improvements at Nassau Airport, including the new car park, re-roofing the terminal buildings and repaving and remarking the runway, taxiways and parking areas.

In the Family Islands, plans are in the "final stages of preparation" for a new international jet airport at Moss Town, Exuma, and upgrading the airport facilities at North Andros, Mangrove Cay, North Eleuthera and Governor's Harbour.

Funds for a new international airport in Exuma were first allocated in the 1981 Budget.

Prime Minister Lynden Pindling bluntly told the Exuma Chamber of Commerce in

January last year that he dropped the item from the 1985 Budget because of other infrastructure considerations. He was unable to name a new date.

He said it would be wrong to build a new airport before improving the road system.

On May 1, Batelco announced that Camperdown will get a new digital exchange and Pinewood Gardens a remote exchange. It said it would immediately implement Direct Distance Dialing and International Direct Digital Dialling from Harbour Island.

It was also announced that a new dock would be built in Clarence Town. The old public dock - the main lifeline for food, building materials and other essentials - recently collapsed after repeated warnings from the MP, James Knowles (FNM). Mr Knowles went as far as calling the dock a "death trap" in Parliament.

Mr Foulkes said Government's election promises are losing impact.

"There has been too much neglect over two long a period and a little flurry of activity is not going to help them. Development of the islands should by now have been at a much higher standard," he said.

He said Government's failure to save the Clarence Town dock was a national disgrace.

"It was disgusting. By trying to spite FNMs, they endangered the well being of everybody,"

he said.

And there are other tales of empty promises and neglect.

Government's administration building in Bimini was destroyed by fire nine years ago. During the 1982 election campaign, Sir Lynden said that funds had been allocated to rebuild the structure. Today - four years later - the building remains in the same state.

The Commissioner's Office is located in a building that has been abandoned by Batelco. Court cases are heard in a burial society hall.

The dock is so dilapidated, residents say you could "lose a car in it."

Although Grand Bahama has the second largest population in the Bahamas, residents have to travel to Nassau to get their passports, copies of birth certificates and other official documents.

In January, 1985, Sir Lynden promised that within three months, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs would establish branches in Freeport. Nothing happened.

At a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Freeport May 1 Economic Affairs Minister Alfred Maycock announced that arrangements have been made to get an office site and that the Prime Minister is expected to visit Grand Bahama shortly to "formalize the presence of his office."

FNM's Grand Bahama Hopes

Nassau THE TRIBUNE (GRAND BAHAMA section) in English 15 May 86 pp 2B, 3B

[Text]

THE GRAND Bahama Council of the FNM is going to implement techniques and "practice basic politics" in order to ensure "an FNM sweep of Grand Bahama and in the process, nurture peace, harmony, equality and mutual respect amongst our people," Basil Neymour, Council Chairman, said in a news release issued last week Friday.

Grand Bahamians were called on to pledge their commitment to the course of the opposition Free National Movement, "which is a true, honest and harmonious course aimed at revitalization of our country and promoting the growth and prosperity of our people."

A "vigorous" membership campaign was announced and FNM supporters were urged to

encourage their wives, husbands and children of voting age to "get involved in the fight for freedom," economic recovery, and social and industrial development.

"We recognise the potential and importance of having the young people of this nation actively involved in moulding the future of this country," said Mr Neymour in his 2 1/4 page release.

"Young people should be involved in local government, national government and government at all other levels."

Mr Neymour called on young people not to be hesitant to "exploit their imagination."

"Let your imagination develop you because it will be the greatest inspiration to you achieving your goal in life."

The Council Chairman said the FNM is the only alternative left the people of the Bahamas to develop and deliver themselves from "the depths of unemployment and despair to the heights of self respect and esteem."

"There is much that can be done but it's very difficult to do it alone, we need the assistance of every Bahamian in this land, no matter your age, sex, colour, religion, or social economic status," said Mr Neymour.

"Those of you who have begun the long march to freedom understand the need to enlist more freedom fighters."

Following is the full text of Mr Neymour's release:

"The Grand Bahama Council of the FNM will be the tool in which Bahamians from all walks of life will be able to become a part of the greatest governing party this nation has ever seen."

"Already, the wheels are in motion to get young males and females interested in the Torchbearers movement. Emphasis is great in the area of females coming to the front line as well as becoming involved in the FNM Women's Association."

"In months to come, the news media will not be relating stories of the FNM slugging it out by gutter politics with the PLP. Instead, the media will be relating the resurgence of the most politically well balanced group in the history of Grand Bahama politics."

"The plans are coming off the drawing board, the FNM is in Grand Bahama for all Bahamians. We will be implementing techniques, practising basic politics to ensure an FNM sweep of Grand Bahama and in the process, nurture peace, harmony, equality and mutual respect amongst our people."

"Our goal is to inspire leadership qualities. We know there are hundreds of Bahamians out there possessing the capabilities to excel in local politics."

"The FNM in Grand Bahama welcomes with open arms new faces, new ideas into the organisation. The Grand Bahama Council of the FNM is proud to take the lead towards what we refer to as our new," bold political revolution.

"We will be putting into place a vigorous membership expansion campaign aimed at getting hundreds of new faces, young people, inactive party supporters and stalwarts involved in the party at all levels in Grand Bahama."

"We urge all active FNM supporters to encourage their wives, husbands and children of voting age to get involved in the fight for freedom, economic recovery and vast and rapid social and industrial development."

"We recognise the potential and importance of having the young people of this nation actively involved in moulding the future of this country."

"Young people should be involved in local government, national government and government at all other levels."

"They should not only be sought after when it becomes time to vote. Youth is a glorious time of manhood or womanhood. It is a time of learning how to deal with life, it is a period to prepare one's self for becoming the nation builders and leaders of tomorrow."

"I call on the young people not to be hesitant to exploit their imagination. Human imagination is the most powerful creative force in your lives. Through it you produce ideas, formulate your desires, goals and objectives, sparkle, enthusiasm and joy."

"Your imagination and your enthusiasm will generate new ideas, new solutions to problems and will fire your ambition."

"Let your imagination develop you because it will be the greatest inspiration to you achieving your goal in life."

"For every young person there is a place in this party for you. We want you, we want your imagination, we want your leadership in the FNM with us. You have a defined role to play in our great party, for the very survival of yourself and this nation is at stake."

"The FNM is the only alternative left the people of this country to develop and deliver themselves from the depths of unemployment and despair to the heights of self respect and esteem."

"There is much that can be done but it's very difficult to do it alone, we need the assistance of every Bahamian in this land, no matter your age, sex, colour, religion or social-economic status."

"Those of you who have begun the long march to freedom understand the need to enlist more freedom fighters."

"We ask all of you to call our headquarters at 373-6640 between 5 and 9 pm week days to pledge your commitment to the course of the FNM which is a true, honest and harmonious course aimed at revitalization our country and promoting the growth and prosperity of our people."

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 May 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

LEADERS of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party last night called on supporters to turn out on Bay Street on Tuesday when the official opposition Free National Movement is expected to move a motion of no confidence in Prime Minister Minister Pindling.

The no confidence motion, tabled several months ago by Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, will be debated in the House of Assembly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the FNM has urged thousands of its supporters to turn out on Bay Street to give moral support.

The call for supporters to go to Bay Street next week was made at a PLP mass rally at the Columbus Primary School by Prime Minister Pindling, Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard, Minister of Tourism and Foreign Affairs, and PLP Chairman Senator Sean McWeeney.

Addressing a crowd, estimated by police to be about 2,000, Prime Minister Pindling said that one of the things suggested by Project Masters, which the PLP claims directs the FNM's public relations campaign, is called "honk and wave."

"That ain't no Bahamian custom. Honk and wave, they imported that from Project Masters," he said. "You know if you go out on the road and make noise with your car horn that is supposed to be a public nuisance. You ain't suppose to disturb nobody on the street with your car horn."

He said it is all right "if the FNM wants to honk and wave, but honking don't vote."

"So while they honk and wave, we are going to march and vote, but you have got to get registered first," he said.

The Prime Minister reminded

the crowd that it is already May 15 and three-quarters of the PLP are not registered yet.

He said at a rally several weeks ago that PLPs must be registered to vote by June.

"I just thought I would remind you because I don't want you complaining when time run out," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the 300 supporters whom the party has asked to turn out on Bay Street will be given some special instructions on what to watch out for on Tuesday.

"Women, men, young, old, a cross-section of what the party is all about, so we can show the world exactly what is going on in the Bahamas, not what the shadow public relations campaign say that is going on in the Bahamas," he said.

He said that apparently somebody wants to see whether the PLP is ready or not.

He said that while the FNM honk and wave, the PLP will behave and follow the instructions of party officials and the police.

Mr Maynard said that there seems to be a threat of intimidation again by the FNM in calling for supporters to turn out on Bay Street.

"What Mr Isaacs is hoping to is bring out enough FNMs on Bay Street feeling that will intimidate the PLP and intimidate the members of the House," he said. "They know they can't intimidate the members of the House so they might be trying to intimidate the members of the PLP."

"I hope that you will take the time to come out over the next three days. Be in the House and be outside the House. I want them to know that we ain't scared of nothing," he said.

"And you see, you can't let the few intimidate the many. No way. And I tell you one thing. They are very short on

patience. As soon as they see crowds, they gone. The best way to handle them is to take care of that," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"Be sure that you make your way there at the first opportunity you get and spend a little time and let them know where we stand and what we stand for," Mr Maynard said. "Don't be afraid to come down to Bay Street. Come out there and make yourselves seen and felt."

Sen McWeeney told the rally that PLPs will be on Bay Street on Tuesday.

"That's why I began by saying what goes around comes around," he said. "The PLP ran them right into the ground last year and we are going to make them shame again this year."

"We will be out in force on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week and we will be out in force and power and standing with authority to stage a massive demonstration of our own," the PLP Chairman said.

"We are going to stage a solid as a rock demonstration of solidarity with our leader," he said. "They will be there...the FNM will be there to show that they have no confidence in the Prime Minister. We will be there to let them know that we have confidence in our leader."

"We are going to behave ourselves as sensibly and as maturely and as responsibly and as peacefully as we did last year. We will set an example in proper civic behaviour for the FNM," he said.

"But will be there in power, we will be there in strength and we will be standing there with authority. Make no mistake about that," Sen McWeeney said. "Bay Street is going to be ours next week."

The PLP Chairman told supporters to be on Bay Street

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at 9am Tuesday for the demonstration in support of the Prime Minister.

"We will demonstrate to the FNM, to the PLP supporters everywhere and to the nation at large that the PLP is in charge and just as we put the torch out last year, we are going to rain down a shower on that torch next week," he said.

FNM Rally Speeches

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 May 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OFFICIAL Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs told an FNM rally last night that the Progressive Liberal Government did not have the political will to deal with the drug trafficking problem in the Bahamas.

Addressing supporters at a mass rally at R M Bailey Senior High School playing field, Mr Isaacs said that what was stated by Interpol's Sixth Caribbean/Central American Conference in connection with drug trafficking in many countries, applied very much to the Bahamas.

The rally, the second this week, in a countdown to the FNM's vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister, which will be moved when the House of Assembly meets Tuesday, was also addressed by several other FNM speakers.

"I want you to know that when it comes to doing something about drug trafficking, when it comes to doing something about crime, crime is the responsibility of the Government," Mr Isaacs told about 2,000 supporters attending the rally.

"And I believe that what was being said by Interpol the other day about drug trafficking in some countries, applies very much to the Bahamas," the Opposition

Leader said.

"And I know that this Government, when the drug situation became known to this country, did not have the political will to do anything about it," Mr Isaacs said.

He charged that Government allowed drug trafficking and crime generally, to reach the stage that it is at today.

Secretary General of Interpol, Mr Raymond Kendall told a press conference earlier this week that political will was needed to stamp out drug trafficking.

The Opposition Leader also attacked the Government over its failure to deal with unemployment.

He exhorted FNM's to participate in the party's motorcade, which will be held tomorrow starting at R M Bailey Senior High School and ending at the Western Esplanade.

On Tuesday, FNM supporters were urged to join the march from Windor Park to the Public Square, beginning at 9am, to demonstrate support of the FNM.

The party will move a motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister, which is expected to be debated Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The leaders of the PLP have already urged their supporters to

also turn out on Bay Street to demonstrate in support of the Government.

Also speaking during the rally was Mrs Janet Bostwick MP for Yamacraw, who predicted victory for the FNM at the next general elections.

"We've all got on our travelling shoes. We've been in full battle gear for a long time. We are more than warmed up for the fight," the first lady of parliament told the rally.

"I know and you know that in a short time now, a very short time, we shall overcome," Mrs Bostwick said. "I know and you know and Pindling knows, the next time he calls an election, with the help of Almighty God, we shall whip the tyrants out of their seat of power."

She said no matter what the Prime Minister said, she would be one of the FNM members who would be returned to the House of Assembly.

The Prime Minister predicted that the PLP would capture six of the 11 seats now held by the FNM, including the Yamacraw Constituency to which Mrs Bostwick was elected in 1982 becoming the first woman in the House.

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BAHAMAS

FNM SCORES NO-CONFIDENCE CHANGES, WILL CONTINUE PROTESTS

FNM Viewpoint

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

THE Opposition has no intention of abandoning its commitment to demonstrate against the Pindling Government, party spokesman Arthur Foulkes said today.

And he said it was Prime Minister Lynden Pindling - not the FNM - who introduced confrontation politics to the Bahamas.

Speaker Clifford Darling yesterday appealed to the PLP and FNM to call off protests planned for outside the House. Sir Clifford said that when he demonstrated, it was for first-class citizenship and equality.

"This is the very thing that the FNM is demonstrating for and a democracy which the Constitution and Conventions adhere to. One of these Conventions is that a corrupt government should step down, and another is that the Opposition should be treated fairly in Parliament and should not have their motions arbitrarily mutilated by the Speaker or anyone else," Mr Foulkes said.

The FNM called off Tuesday's demonstration, which was to coincide with a No Confidence action against the Prime Minister, because of the death of St Barnabas MP Sinclair Outten on Sunday. The PLP, which announced a counter demonstration, did the same.

Mr Foulkes said the FNM will decide what to do when its political activities resume after Mr Outten's funeral Saturday.

The House was suspended until next Wednesday.

"I don't know where the Speaker is living," but he should be aware of numerous complaints that FNMs are being treated as second class citizens, Mr Foulkes said.

He said this situation also exists in factions of the Speaker's party where friends of former Cabinet Ministers Hubert Ingraham and Perry Christie were fired and persecuted, and had nasty rumours spread about them.

Mr Foulkes said that FNMs have suffered for years from second class treatment.

"We are marching for the same thing he was talking about," Mr Foulkes said.

He said it is generally recognised that demonstrating is a justifiable instrument for democratic politics.

"Now that the PLP is tottering, they want us to abandon demonstrating. We have to let the Prime Minister, Speaker and straw vendors know in no uncertain terms that we don't intend to abandon that tool," Mr Foulkes said.

Singling out a warning by Pinedale MP Milo Butler on

confrontation politics, Mr Foulkes said it was "Mr Pindling" who first spoke of confrontation after the 1982 elections, even though the FNM gave Government every opportunity to play by the rules.

He said Tuesday is not the first time the PLP called a demonstration to coincide with FNM protests.

On May 15 - the night the PLP urged its supporters to go to Bay Street to coincide with an FNM demonstration - Sir Lynden said that while the country strives to make economic headway, "nobody must be permitted to get in the way or they will be thrown out of the way."

He called Opposition leader Kendal Isaacs a "jackass."

In February, 1985, Sir Lynden told over 1,000 supporters that the FNM must decide whether it was going to pull back or "draw blood." The FNM was planning a big demonstration in front of the House at the time.

Said the Prime Minister: "Now they are going to have to decide whether they are going to pull back or whether they are going to draw blood. That is the decision the FNM must make...Whether they are going to pull back, or whether they are going to draw back. And that is a fateful position."

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Earlier that month, the PLP held a counter demonstration outside the House. Their support dwindled after the first day. Hundreds of FNMs returned to Bay Street the following day and chased Sir Lynden to his car as he left Parliament.

A couple of weeks later, PLP chairman Sean McWeeney urged supporters not to go to Bay Street when the House met the following day.

He said that by not de-

monstrating, the PLP had taken the lead. This, he said, was a symbol of the party's commitment to the restoration of peace and sanity in the political process; that the party was prepared to take the lead in reducing political tension, and that this was a sign of maturity and responsibility.

Last week, Mr McWeeney joined Sir Lynden and Deputy Prime Minister Clement Maynard in urging their supporters to stage a counter

demonstration on Bay Street.

"I recall that in 1985, Mr McWeeney had a lot to say about reducing tension and demonstrating maturity and responsibility," Mr Foulkes said today.

"What happened to all of these high ideals in one short year? Have they gone back to square one to carry out the kind of confrontation politics Mr Pindling spoke of in 1982?" he asked.

Objection to Deletion

FL282116 Nasrau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 May 86

[By Obie Wilchcombe]

[Text] Prime Minister the Right Honorable Sir Lynden Pindling caught the opposition by surprise this morning when he informed the House on his procedural point of order that he and the government are prepared to debate the opposition's resolution of no-confidence in its original form that was presented on 12 March.

The speaker of the house, Sir Clifford Darling, had deleted portions of the original resolution consistent with the rules of the house.

The leader of the opposition, Mr Kendall Isaacs, this morning brought to the house an objection to the speaker's decision. Asked a question that he made a point of order, he said he wished to speak to the [word indistinct] point of order. This contained objections to the speaker's decision to delete portions of the resolution. He said whether the resolution is debated in its original form should not have depended on the government's [word indistinct] because, he insisted, those portions were wrongfully deleted.

The speaker objected, telling Mr Isaacs not to mislead the house and suggest that he, the speaker, had done something wrong.

The prime minister's announcement this morning eventually met with an adjournment after the opposition requested that the resolution in its original form with the deleted paragraph 10 be now placed on the agenda of the house.

Both the prime minister and the member of Parliament denounced the situation. The Honorable Arthur Hanna suggested way to rectify the matter and allow for the debate to proceed. The opposition objected, asking for an adjournment. Both sides agreed on the house adjournment and it did until Wednesday, 4 June.

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BAHAMAS

FNM GROUP SCORES CHURCH'S 'PACT' WITH POLITICIANS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 24 May 86 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE Church has seemingly formed a pact with politicians, thus prostituting themselves to the extent that even the voices of a few spiritual leaders who speak out is often of no effect, Mrs Rosie Grant, chaplain of the FNM Women's Association said last night.

Addressing the Association's symposium/panel discussion on "Bahamian women and politics," at the St John's College auditorium, Mrs Grant said there is not enough Christian force prepared to take God at his word and to stand up for Truth and Justice.

"The Church should be in the position to speak out against the wrongs and the injustices of the less fortunate," she said. "Even the wicked Government would do well to stay in the grace of a united voice of the Church. But sad to say, we find the opposite today.

"The Church has seemingly formed a pact with politicians, thus prostituting themselves to a point that even the voice of a few spiritual leaders who speak out is often of non effect because there is not enough Christian force that is prepared to take God at his word and to stand up for Truth and Justice," she said.

"Now I know these are uncomfortable statements but they are also cold, hard facts," said Mrs Grant, who spoke on

the topic: "Religion and politics: a workable combination."

"A brief, compromising silence on issues which affect the lives of so many less fortunate, the silence on so many victimization, injustices meted out to people, tells us plainly that there is something missing in the Church's unity," she said.

"The Church would do well to stay out of politics," she said. "and being spiritually united in its voice will shake the halls of parliament and effect great changes.

"This for now is a dream and a vision which I pray to become a reality," she said.

Mrs Grant said that Bahamians have been told that politics is a dirty business and this is the general thought or misconception which many have laboured under.

"The idea of a Christian entering politics is taboo in the minds of many," she said. "The general feeling is that you get involved with a clean record and before long, you are corrupt and dishonest, that in politics, one's integrity and decency must be put aside if he or she is to survive in the political arena."

She said that a Christian layman or minister - it is even worse for this individual - is looked upon as an outcast, estranged from God.

"This fact can easily be borne out when we review past history of men of the cloth who dared to enter frontline politics," she said. "These persons lose because of the negative attitudes of the members of society.

"A great many people fail to understand that it is God himself who ordains governments. It is he who sets up and breaks down kingdoms," she said.

She quoted a verse from the Second Samuel in the Old Testament which stated that "he that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."

"Every public official takes an oath to be honest, honest and fair in their duties which so often affect the lives of so many persons, particularly the poor and underprivileged," she said.

Further, declared Mrs Grant, Bahamians are a people who profess to be Godly.

"How hypocritical of us as a people to demand justice from the wicked, compassion from the heartless, honesty and fairplay from the corrupt and morality from the licentious," she said. "How hypocritical to demand from the unrighteous righteousness."

She said that the governing of a people is a task that must be taken with the guidance of Almighty God.

"It is a ministry of service for all the people, even those who

oppose our views," she said. "This calls for much love."

She said that at present, it is incumbent upon Bahamians to demand righteous leadership if they are to have good government.

"Our nation is in serious problems, our youth are crippled by the yoke of unemployment, destroyed by immorality and drug addiction, teenage pregnancy," she said.

"Confusion seems to be the order of the day. These things seem to tell us that we, as a people, need to turn to the Lord with all our hearts so that he can heal all our lives," she said.

She said that often when a Christian is running for parliament, he is asked whether it is for political mileage.

"The answer is no. God has endowed each of us with talents. We suffer when we refuse to use them to the glory of God in any area of life in which we are needed," she said.

"Our society suffers when it refuses to recognise and use those whom God has endowed to enhance our lives," she said.

Mrs Grant said that there are those who tell us that when we enter parliament we are turning our backs on God.

"To those persons, I pose the following question: Is it not a Christian's duty to speak out against all evils? How can Christians be opposed to society if they remain silent? How can we pray for good government

when we continually vote for unjust and corrupt men? Is it not a Christian's duty to govern the people in the fear of the Lord?" she asked.

"If we continue to reject good Christian men and women, then we will be forever plagued with an ungodly and uncaring government," Mrs Grant said.

She said that "we speak of freedom from slavery but we are mentally enslaved by ideologies that are often wrong and thus bring about a greater form of slavery."

"Society must react quickly if there is to be any hope for the future," she said. "We must demand honest and upright persons in government. For it is then and only then that we will be able to say that it is better in the Bahamas."

"And ours will be a land where unemployment will be at its lowest, our youth educated to reject drugs in all its forms and to strive for the better things in life, a land where parliamentary democracy is not mere words but an active reality, a land where we as a people united under God would rise above all social ills that bind us," she said.

"So come on brothers and sisters, let's vote for honour and righteousness, let's give them a chance. Our nation and the entire Caribbean will be secured for the future generations if we act now," she said.

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BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

JAMAICAN ENVOY--Jamaica High Commissioner Keith Johnson, OJ, (left) who presented his letters of credence to Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash at Government House yesterday morning, called on Minister of Foreign Affairs Clement Maynard on Monday. The High Commissioner was accompanied by his wife, Dr Pamela Johnson and their daughters, Mrs Hope Vargas and Mrs Marie Hule. [Photo caption] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 May 86 p 1] /9274

MISSING TREASURY FUNDS--Police Commissioner Gerald Bartlett today had no knowledge of reports that a large sum of money was missing from the Treasury. Deputy Treasurer D Darling said he was not aware that any funds were missing. However, there were strong reports circulating that at least \$2.4 million had been discovered missing from the Treasury. The Tribune was told it was recently discovered that a large sum of money had been removed from the Treasury over a long period of time. It was reported that police were interested in having the assistance of a former Treasury employee. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 May 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 3298/462

BARBADOS

BARROW IN INTERVIEW COVERS RELATIONS WITH U.S., TRINIDAD

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 2 Jun 86 pp 6, 31, 33, 35

[Article by Anthony Milne: "Barrow Hits Out at Reagan: I Don't Believe in Santa Claus"]

[Text]

Bridgetown, Sunday

BARBADOS' new Prime Minister Errol Walton Barrow, known to Barbadians as "the Skipper," drives himself around the island in a light yellow, left-hand drive Mercedes Benz.

He refuses police escorts but has agreed that he will have a chauffeur on state occasions.

He decided against moving into sumptuous Haro Court, the Prime Minister's official residence, and will live in his own home. One of his pleasures is cooking.

Barrow was in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War and is a lawyer. He has been in Parliament for 35 years and was a member of the Barbados Labour Party under Grantley Adams until they fell out in 1955.

He then formed the Democratic Labour Party and went on to win the 1981 general election.

He remained in power for 15 years, taking Barbados to independence in 1966 and becoming its first prime minister.

He and his party were defeated at the polls in 1976 by the Barbados Labour Party under Grantley Adams' son J.M.G. "Tom" Adams.

Barrow can be aloof and has been described as "arrogant." Express reporter ANTHONY MILNE, in Barbados to cover the election, was told that Barrow did not speak to the press easily, but when he met during the swearing-in of government Members of Parliament at Government House on Friday, Barrow readily agreed to this interview.

The interview was conducted in an upper room of the Democratic Labour Party's headquarters, "The Auditorium," in Belleville, Bridgetown, while Barrow sorted through dozens of congratulatory telegrams and phones rang. He was waiting on a call to Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers to get through.

EXPRESS: Mr Barrow, we would like firstly to congratulate you on your election victory and have noted with interest the way in which the Barbados political system works.

Do you think of the conduct of this election as a manifestation of democracy in Barbados?

BARROW: These are the first truly democratic elections we have had in Barbados since 1976. Our first job in ensuring that the elections would be democratic was to insist on purification of the whole electoral system.

EXPRESS: Mr Barrow, how do you feel about a United States presence in the Caribbean? Should it be increased or decreased?

BARROW: If it is presence in the shape of tourists, I think it should be increased. But if it is in the shape of people from the CIA and the State Department I am not in favour of it.

EXPRESS: Do you see yourself differing

in this view from other Caricom leaders in power at present at the moment, like Edward Seaga and Eugenia Charles, for example?

BARROW: I have never supported their policies, so we don't have to quarrel about it. That is their foreign policy. We will have our own foreign policy. We always have had. Both Ed- die Seaga and Eugenia Charles I have been fairly closely associated with.

I hate to mention how long, but it must be about 40 years in the case of Miss Charles, as a student and family friend. But I never considered her much of a politician.

But I don't consider that she suits day and age in politics. Mr Seaga thinks the solution to Jamaica's problem is to get President Reagan to play Santa Claus. I do not believe in Santa Claus. It is simple, that's all — we disagree in our beliefs.

I do not think Barbadians would accept a situation in which political parties as parties resorted to violence as a means of changing the government.

EXPRESS: But there were one or two incidents involving violence.

BARROW: There were one or two incidents, but I would prefer not to dwell on that. You can't take one or two isolated incidents perpetrated by individuals and elevate them into a general pattern of violence. And we do our best, even when the violence was directed against us, not to make too much of it.

EXPRESS: Did you expect such a large movement of support away from the ruling party? What accounted for this? What was it the people really dislike about the Barbados Labour Party Government?

BARROW: The first problem was unemployment and the government never really came to grips with this problem. The second problem was the massive amount of unproductive expenditure in the public sector like the building of the Central Bank which cost \$100 million, building a road in a small island like Barbados for another \$100 million (for what reason no one has been able to find out), when there are crying social needs such as shortages of housing, and factories being closed down wi-

thout any proper assistance from the government. These were the major factors.

EXPRESS: There were also charges of corruption and interference with the normal course of legal procedure made on the platform during the campaign, weren't there?

BARROW: This was all part of the arrogance of the government ministers. They had a complete disrespect for the procedures of the courts. Government ministers were above the law. Naturally, the people resented this because they saw flagrant breaches of the law committed by persons in authority. Either no prosecutions were brought at all, or if prosecutions were brought, the law enforcement authorities were instructed to discontinue prosecutions against the favoured few. I don't think Barbadians like that.

EXPRESS: Is there any truth to statements made during the campaign that race and class play a part in the make up of the two parties?

BARROW: No. I think the government party as it was then had nothing to tell the people and when one or two of our speakers pointed out that the government, as it then was, was being manipulated from behind the scenes by one or two wealthy people,

they interpreted this as our preaching racial divisiveness which is not true at all.

But the accusations really came from their own members — that ministers were told you cannot do so and so because Mr so and so does not want it done. They deliberately translated this into an attack because people of European origin in Barbados do control the economy.

They do not control all of it. But what our speakers were trying to establish was that, although they were not in Parliament, these people were controlling the government behind the scenes.

EXPRESS: With regard to specific problems, your government, then, will tackle unemployment as a priority, will it?

BARROW: We have to. We have to because unemployed persons are unproductive and if you have 30 to 40 per cent unemployment, then it means that the country is 30 to 40 per cent less productive than it should be.

So we have a direct interest in trying to reduce that level of unemployment as far as humanly possible as a very urgent matter.

EXPRESS: Your manifesto spoke of tax reductions, cuts in public spending, and possibly sale of shares in state enterprises. These measures are all aimed at reviving the economy, are

they?

BARROW: What is happening now is that there a lot of government enterprises which are very badly managed, very uneconomical, and the taxpayers have to subsidise these public enterprises when we would not be liable to support them if they were in private hands.

I am not a great apostle for private enterprise, but I recognise that there are certain things a government has to do and can do well, and there are other things a government is just not equipped to do. A government is not really equipped to run broadcasting stations, television services, or hotels.

This is something for private enterprise. What the government has done in our case has been to go into this kind of investment because there was not enough capital formation in the private sector, and to direct the course of these projects — like the Hilton Hotel, the Arawak Cement Plant, and the radio and television stations.

But once you have got them started there is no reason for the government to hang on to them, or for them to have staffs accommodating people's friends and political adherents. It then becomes an uneconomical proposition. Our idea is privatisation of certain enterprises which we feel would be less burdensome.

BARBADOS

ST JOHN INTERVIEWED ON ECONOMY, CENTRAL BANK REPORT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 18 May 86 p 44

[Text]

THE RECORD JUMP in savings in the commercial banks in January and February has been attributed to the 1985 Budget.

In an exclusive SUNDAY SUN interview, Prime Minister Bernard St. John said: "I am sure that the Budget of 1985 had something to do with it; because not only did we provide special incentives for savings through credit unions, but also we said that it was going to be a Budget that would create more employment in Barbados."

He adds: "When you look at it from a April to March position, I think that the evidence will now indicate that we have had an increase, particularly in the first quarter of this year, in the economic activity in Barbados."

The latest statistics from the Central Bank have revealed that in commercial banks, Barbadians had accumulated \$512 million in personal savings and that in January and February, personal savings had jumped by \$8 million, the single largest increase ever in the history of Barbados.

Prime Minister St. John recalled statements being made by the Democratic Labour Party that the Budget Speech he delivered was not accurate, in that he portrayed a more favourable position of the economy than the Central Bank Report indicated it to be.

He explains: "First, I must point out that the Central Bank Report deals with a calendar year from January to December. A Budget speech in Barbados deals mostly with the fiscal year, which is April to March. Now my Budget speech explains that when you look at it from the point of view of the calendar year 1985, January to April was good.

"We had an excellent tourist season in particular; the crop was not bad in relation to the year before and there was some evidence of manufacturing activity moving. The second and third quarters, however, were not good.

"Because of the strength of the United States dollar, the summer tourism was not good. But in the last quarter, there was evidence of resurgence, particularly since September, 1985 when the famous Group Five meeting took place and the need was identified for the leading economies of the world to take steps to reduce the value of the United States dollar.

"I find it remarkable that in a country like Barbados, economic discussions can take place without the side attempting to discuss the economy making reference to the impact of the high value of the American dollar on the Barbados economy."

Prime Minister St. John said: "I am very pleased to say that, just as I predicted at the time I was delivering the Budget, all the indicators are now that the first quarter of 1986 is good.

"Unemployment is now 15.6 percent as opposed to 17.4 percent for the same period in 1985. In January to April, 1986, the cruise ship passengers were about 30 percent higher; long stay visitors, I am told, will definitely be up.

"As a matter of fact, the statistics for January and February indicate that for those two months, we have had the largest amount of visitors ever to come to Barbados in a January or a February.

"And I know that March is bound to be good, because we had the English Test series and a large number of English people came in.

"We also know from the returns from both the Hilton and Heywoods that January to April were very good months for those hotels; as the revenue they received this year was far greater than the revenue they received last year for the same period.

"We know too that the hotel tax was much greater. We also know that inflation between January and March was very low; as a matter of fact, it was a minus quantity.

"We haven't got the April figures in yet; but they will soon be available. I am sure that the position between January to April will indicate that inflation was below two percent.

"What about sugar? This year, we will have at least 12 000 tonnes more than we had last year; and what is more, the world market price is better than it was last year.

"Now for manufacturing. There is strong evidence available to us that there is an upsurge in the interests in investment in Barbados. I am told by the IDC (Industrial Development Corporation) that about six new factories are about to be set up in Barbados."

Prime Minister St. John concludes: "I reject any suggestion by Dr. Haynes or others that the picture I portrayed about the prospects of the Barbados economy in 1986 was different from what the Central Bank said.

"The Central Bank Report deals with January to December; and if you look at that period in my Budget, you will notice that in several places I made reference to the fact that we had a good first quarter; two bad quarters in the second and the third; and that there was evidence of a pick up in the fourth quarter."

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CSO: 3298/463

BARBADOS

DLP ACCUSED OF INTRODUCING RACE ISSUE IN CAMPAIGN

St John Comments

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 18 May 86 p 1

[Text] RACISM is posing a threat to the economic stability of Barbados, said Prime Minister and leader of the Barbados Labour Party (BLP), Bernard St. John, in reviewing campaigning yesterday for the General Election on Wednesday, May 28.

"This threat has arisen because of what is happening in the Democratic Labour Party (DLP). Don Blackman, Robert Morris, Ramases Caddle, Dr. Erskine Simmons and that wing in the Democratic Labour Party, which now has taken control of it, are obviously intent on creating in Barbados fear, instability and disharmony. This can only mean disaster for Barbados," said Mr. St. John.

He added: "A country like Barbados is dependent on foreign investment and confidence

by our local people in our future. There can be no future for Barbados with a Don Blackman and his gang having influence within the Democratic Labour Party. There is no excuse to say that there are others in the Democratic Labour Party who might not agree. Errol Barrow as the leader of the Democratic Labour Party is responsible to a large extent.

"He openly courted Don Blackman. Now he has Don Blackman. He has a tiger that he can't control. We are ending up now with a very, very grave situation as Barrow is, in all

probability likely, in the unfortunate event if the Democratic Labour Party were to win the election, of having to give way to one of the wings."

Mr. St. John asked: "Which wing will it be?" He replied: "At the present moment the evidence is clear which wing it will be. I think the people of Barbados should destroy this wing in the Democratic Labour Party; should not vote for the Democratic Labour Party. The only way that Barbados' future can be secured is to vote for the Barbados Labour Party."

Mr. St. John concluded: "I am convinced from the reaction to our public meetings that our campaign is gathering momentum; that in the country districts the strength of the Barbados Labour Party is as solid as ever; I am convinced myself that the people see me as the logical leader; as the right person in the right place at the right time."

Barrow Response

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 18 May 86 p 1

[Text]

OPPOSITION LEADER Errol Barrow said on Friday night that race was not an issue in the General Election as far as the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) was concerned.

He described as "pure, unadulterated nonsense" the talk that racialism was being preached by the DLP on its platforms during the campaign.

Mr. Barrow told the SUNDAY SUN after the political

He said election time was not a time for entertainment, but a time for serious reflection, and noted that the St. Michael East constituency candidate Dr. Don Blackman was a victim of discrimination.

The DLP head also spoke of manipulation of the affairs of the country in such a way that there was a perception that people not in power manipulated the people who were the political directorate to victimise not only the hapless, defenceless working class masses of Barbados, but also Cabinet ministers themselves.

Mr. Barrow noted that when one highlighted those points, it was claimed that racialism was being preached. When he was

leader of the country, he said, he had introduced the Public Order Act and anyone who preached racialism on the platform should be prosecuted.

And Mr. Barrow called on anyone who thought the DLP and its members were preaching racialism to go to the police and ask that the person be prosecuted.

He said whenever one tried to get people in the country to realise they have important decisions to make, "they say you are preaching racialism and racial discrimination, but we have a law for that."

Mr. Barrow said his party's campaign was going very well and they had been able to get the issues affecting the country over to the crowd.

meeting at Eagle Hall, St. Michael, that he was not in the least disturbed by the introduction of race and racial discrimination into the elections, because his party had not done so.

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CSO: 3298/463

BARBADOS

VIOLENCE ERUPTS AT PARTY RALLIES; BARROW URGES CALM

Reports of Injuries

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 21 May 86 p 3

[Text]

VIOLENCE erupted at a Democratic Labour Party (DLP) public meeting on Monday night as the political climate waxed hot. It caused two men to be injured; a woman trampled and a young man arrested.

Dr. Don Blackman had just mounted the rostrum, when a slight drizzle started, causing some people to seek shelter.

And suddenly, there was a mini stampede as several stones were hurled into the crowd. The meeting was at Wavell Avenue, Black Rock, St. Michael.

But it failed to break up the meeting; for Blackman, the DLP's candidate for St. Michael East, and Branford Taitt, for St. Michael West, came to the microphone and shouted repeatedly; "Don't run, don't run; stand firm, don't run; everything is alright; don't run."

In the stampede, one woman was trampled, though not badly hurt; and two men, David Wason, of St. Stephen's Hill, Black Rock, St. Michael, and Clyde Phillips, of Phillips Road, St. Stephen's Hill, received head injuries and were rushed to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where they were treated and discharged.

Speaking to the DAILY NATION following the incident, Wes Hall, the DLP's candidate for St. Michael West, described the incident as unfortunate, especially as it happened in such a mammoth crowd.

"It could have been anyone," he said, and did not point an accusing finger at any person or party. He added: "I am very sorry about that; it is that sort of element we don't want in politics."

A young man was arrested by the police.

[The Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS on 26 May, page 19, reports a subsequent incidence of violence on 25 May, in a CANA-REUTER dispatch from Bridgetown:

["Six people were injured today during a clash in a suburban district as political parties continued campaigning for next Wednesday's general elections, radio reports said. Among the injured was the ruling Barbados Labour Party's candidate for the St Michael West constituency, businessman Muhammed Nasser, the reports said. Police confirmed that a number of people had been hospitalised and the incident was under investigation."]

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 21 May 86 p 3

[Text]

DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY LEADER, ERROL BARROW, wants to see a violence-free general election campaign.

And yesterday he told party supporters not to retaliate against the stone-throwing incident at the DLP mass meeting at Wavell Avenue, Black Rock, St. Michael, on Sunday night.

At a press conference yesterday, Barrow said while it was up to the parties to ensure the elections were free and fair, it was up to the masses to ensure the campaigning was free of violence.

But at the same time, he made it clear no such incident would prevent the DLP from presenting its programme to the people.

"No amount of stone-throwing and no amount of expensive ads in newspapers trying to divert the attention of the people and the electorate of Barbados from the basic issues of unemployment, manipulation and victimisation will suc-

ceed in diverting us from putting our programme to the people of this island," he said.

Barrow said he was relieved the injuries to victims of the stone-throwing were not serious and that the police were investigating the incident. He sympathised with persons who attended the meeting, only to return home "in a worse state than when they left".

Barrow urged Barbadians not to be caught up in these acts of violence, not even in retaliation.

Of the Wavell Avenue stone-throwing Prime Minister Bernard St. John said he regretted the incident, and was confident the case would be handled appropriately by the police.

He said the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) was of the opinion that all parties had a right to be heard, and he was against political violence of any kind.

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CSO: 3298/463

BARBADOS

DLP ELECTION MANIFESTO PROVIDES DETAILS OF PARTY'S PLANS

Programs for People

Bridgetown: DAILY NATION in English 21 May 86 p 18

[Excerpts of the Democratic Labour Party's 1986 General Election Manifesto, published by the DAILY NATION as a public service]

[Text] DLP Plan for the People

A DLP GOVERNMENT will lead the way to new heights of mutual concern and regard among the people of Barbados. A DLP Government will be a government for the people.

People and their needs have been the focus of all that has been proposed in this manifesto. We now propose the following measures for the protection and upliftment of the young, the elderly, our women-folk and workers:

Youth

1. A Ministry of Youth Affairs will be established.

2. A broadly-based National Advisory Council on Youth will be re-established.

3. Financial support to the Barbados Youth Council will be resumed.

4. A policy of youth participation at all levels of Government will be implemented.

5. The Skills Training Programme will be put under the aegis of the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, and fully integrated into the educational system.

6. A non-military, non-compulsory National Youth Service will be established.

7. Financial support will be made available to young craftsmen and skilled tradesmen

wishing to launch their own business enterprises.

8. A Central Sports Secretariat will be established to provide administrative and secretarial assistance to sports organisations, and to assist in the mobilisation of people for sport and recreation.

9. A National Gymnasium will be constructed.

10. A comprehensive programme for the training and supply of coaches and physical education instructors, will be established.

11. Duty on sporting goods and equipment will be removed.

12. Playground facilities will be enhanced.

13. Adequate financial support will be provided for the Challenor School, the Thelma Vaughan Memorial Home and the Children's Development Centre.

The elderly

1. The minimal National Insurance Pension will be increased, with immediate effect, to \$62 per week, and the non-contributory, old-age pension will be increased to \$50 per week.

2. Pensioners living in their own homes will be granted a discount of 50 percent on Property Taxes.

3. Pensioners will once again be allowed to travel free of cost, on public transportation, at any time of the day or night.

4. Periodic outings to places of interest will be organised for the elderly.

5. Arrangements will be made for the delivery of hot meals to pensioners who are in need of such daily service.

6. Retired Public Officers and Teachers will be guaranteed periodic adjustments to pensions, sufficient to ensure that such pensions will not be less than half the entitlement of present incumbents of posts from which the officer or teacher retired.

7. Pensioners will, in appropriate circumstances, be assisted in meeting the cost of water and or electricity.

8. Retired persons will be invited to make their knowledge and skills available to the Skills Training Programme.

Women

1. Special attention will be paid to the creation of job opportunities for women, with a view to equalising job opportunities for men and women.

2. Initiatives will be taken to ensure that women will have, and will be seen to have, the same opportunities as men, for

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promotion within the public service.

3. Women will be given greater opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes of government, at all levels.

4. The further development of women's organisations will be encouraged and facilitated.

5. Additional Day Nurseries will be established, in convenient locations.

6. Income received as child support in accordance with decisions of the Court, will be exempt from income tax.

Workers

1. Legislation will be introduced to protect workers from arbitrary or unfair dismissal.

2. Severance payment legislation will be revised in the interest of employees.

3. Workers will be accorded representation on all statutory

boards.

4. Government's subvention to the Barbados Workers' Union Labour College will be increased, in a context whereby management and workers' educational institutions will be granted funds to train workers in areas pertinent to decision-making and industrial relations.

5. Funds will be provided for the establishment of a chair in industrial relations at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies.

6. International Labour Organisation Convention No. 140 on paid educational leave will be ratified.

7. The Employment Exchange will be reorganised and upgraded.

8. A specifical system to conciliation for industrial disputes in the public sector, will be established.

9. Comprehensive and up-to-date legislation on occupational safety, health and the working environment, will be introduced.

10. An actuarial review of the National Insurance Scheme will be commissioned, with a view to improving benefits.

11. Workers will be allowed to celebrate May Day, on the day of their preference.

12. The growth and development of the cooperative movement will be encouraged and facilitated.

13. Cultural activity will be fostered through all appropriate measures, including the establishment of schools for the performing arts.

14. No Property Tax will be payable on the first 30 percent of the improved site value, for persons living in their own homes.

Agricultural, Fishing Policies

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 21 May 86 p 19

[Article: "Agreed Blueprint on the Land"]

[Text]

DIVERSIFICATION and modernisation are the watchwords of the Democratic Labour Party's policy on agriculture. We appreciate that in present circumstances, sugar cane cultivation must be accorded a priority claim on our land resources.

A DLP Government will, therefore, be calling on all available expertise, within the country, to come up with an agreed blueprint for the development of the agricultural sector, which will fulfil the objectives of the DLP's agricultural policy.

The first tenet of the DLP's agricultural policy is that agriculture must provide an adequate livelihood for all persons employed in agriculture.

In addition, a DLP Government will ensure that agricultural planning will give equal emphasis to the foreign exchange saving and the

foreign exchange earning potential of agricultural production.

Special emphasis will be placed on agronomic and market research. The intention will be to infuse Barbadian agriculture with a new dynamism, which will enable it to reach the frontiers of scientific agriculture and become responsive to local and international market conditions.

Essentially, the DLP's strategy, in the area of agriculture, will be to provide a consistent climate of support, encouragement, cooperation, facilitation and accommodative regulatory action. To this end, a DLP Government will implement the following measures:

1. The Agricultural Levy will be abolished and refunds will be made to all persons who have paid such levy.

2. Positive incentives will

be provide to land-owners, in order to facilitate the return of idle lands to agricultural production.

3. Government will lead by example, by ensuring that government-owned agricultural land is fully utilised and efficiently farmed.

4. More government land will be made available for Spring-Hall-type projects, in plot sizes which are determined to be manageable and appropriate to the type of cultivation envisaged.

5. Special incentive schemes will be designed to facilitate the use of the various types of agricultural land in a manner which accords with an agreed agricultural land utilisation plan.

6. Paid-up contributions to the Barbados Agricultural Society will be matched, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, up to a maximum of \$250 000 per annum, on condition that

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government funds be used for research and development purposes.

7. Agricultural out-stations will be reactivated to provide:

- (a) stud services;
- (b) technical and financial management counselling;
- (c) mechanical assistance in land preparation, planting and harvesting;
- (d) demonstration plots and other devices designed to expose small farmers to new appropriate plant varieties and to new techniques in fertiliser application and pest control.

8. The system of loans to farmers will be modified to any extent necessary to ensure that farmers have adequate and timely access to loans.

9. Incentives and facilitation will be offered for the production and marketing of new approved agricultural and horticultural products.

10. Production of beef and mutton and cotton will be

especially encouraged.

11. A DLP Government will ensure that importation of powdered milk, by the Pine Hill Dairy, does not restrain the growth of local milk production.

12. Government agencies will work closely with farmers on the design and implementation of methods to minimise praedial larceny and crop destruction by monkeys and rats.

13. A DLP Government will encourage and, if necessary, participate financially in the establishment of a multi-faceted processing plant for vegetables.

14. Incentives and, if necessary, financial assistance will be made available to indigenous food processing operations such as the one sponsored by the National Organisation of Women.

15. Activities of the Export Promotion Corporation, the Barbados Marketing

Corporation, embassies and high commissions will be coordinated into a finely attuned system for the local and international marketing of agricultural and horticultural products. Initiatives such as the cooperative marketing outlet at the Glebe, St. George, will be encouraged and assisted.

16. The role of the Agricultural Development Corporation as a development agency will be re-emphasised and facilitated.

17. More scholarships will be provided for Agricultural studies at the University of the West Indies.

18. Programmes related to agriculture, at the Community College and the Polytechnic will be expanded and strengthened.

19. The 4-H movement will be encouraged and provided with substantial assistance.

Support for Fishing

A DLP GOVERNMENT will provide systems of support for fishing which will, wherever appropriate, parallel those provided for agriculture. In particular, a DLP Government will:

1. Provide tax incentives and financial assistance to promote the processing, packaging and marketing of fish, and the development of fish-based products;

2. Provide substantially increased assistance to fishermen, in relation to the repair and re-equipment of their boats;

3. Encourage and facilitate the development of fish farming;

4. Arrange for the insurance of the total fishing fleet, through a system whereby fishermen will be allowed to pay boat insurance on a monthly basis. A policy directive will be given to the Insurance Corporation of Barbados, in this regard;

5. Establish research programmes to provide the necessary technology for the optimal exploitation of our fishing resources, with a view to converting the fishing industry into a major foreign exchange earning industry;

6. Organise training for fishermen in the maintenance of engines and other equipment.

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BARBADOS

UNIONS JOIN IN PROTESTING GOVERNMENT WAGE OFFER

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 21 May 86 p 1

[Text]

TWO of Barbados' strongest public sector unions join forces tomorrow in a show of solidarity, protesting Government's latest wage offer to civil servants.

The 7 000-strong National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) and the near 2 000-strong Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) hold their joint meeting at Queen's Park at 9 a.m.

President of the NUPW, Nigel Harper, and his BUT counterpart, Victor Hutchinson, announced this yesterday at a press conference.

The conference followed a NUPW meeting attended by about 3 000 members at which the organisation's general secretary, Joseph Goddard, and Harper brought the union up to date on Government's latest proposals on the current negotiations.

Hutchinson said it was the unions' joint view that Government's approach to the negotiations so far had been one of stalling that had prevented

any satisfactory progress.

Harper disclosed that after four meetings, Government was offering a seven-percent increase for workers at the bottom of the scale in the first year, and two percent in the second; five and two percent for workers in the middle; and a two-percent increase for those at the top.

This same offer of seven percent at the bottom and two at the top had been made to the BUT, according to Hutchinson who explained that the increase at the bottom meant an additional \$70 before income tax and other levies were deducted.

"We have both indicated that we consider the offers made by the Government so far to be paltry, insulting and ridiculous," he said.

The NUPW has proposed a 25-percent increase at the bottom and a 15-percent hike at top, while the teachers are asking 27 percent at the bottom and 17 percent at the top.

Hutchinson charged that Government's approach to the talks had "not been serious and that there has been an effort to protract the negotiations unduly which is evidenced by the making of such low and paltry offers".

He added, "Having discussed the matter together, the two unions have agreed that it is appropriate at this time to demonstrate in a visible and a

forceful way our dissatisfaction with the state of affairs.

"We are calling on Government to adopt a more urgent attitude to the talks, and this can only be done by an immediate and substantial increase in the offer which it has so far made."

Before the announcement of the May 28 election Harper had said that the NUPW negotiating team wanted a wage settlement before Barbadians went to the polls, but both he and Hutchinson said yesterday they did not regard Polling Day as a cut-off point for negotiations.

According to them, since no one knows which of the two major political parties will form the next Government, their chief concern is with jointly voicing their dissatisfaction with the approach in an effort to bring about a much improved approach from the next Government.

At the meeting yesterday both Harper and Goddard spoke of the arguments which they put forward to justify their request.

They said Government acknowledged that the cost of living went up by over eight percent between March, 1984, and the following February, but that Government's offer had not even reached that same eight percent.

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CSO: 3298/463

BARBADOS

SUGAR CROP RESULTS REPORTED; WILL SURPASS 1985 OUTPUT

Bridgetown DAILY NATION in English 15 May 86 p 3

[Text]

THE 1986 SUGAR CROP will outdo that of last year.

Top officials of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited (BSIL) said yesterday sugar production had already equalled that of 1985, and there was still more than 100 000 tonnes of cane to be harvested.

Director of the field section of BSIL, Geoffrey Armstrong, confirmed production had gone "extremely well" and most factories should soon begin winding down. He said the harvest should be over by the end of this month, "but certainly not after the first week in June".

According to Armstrong, the crop was expected to yield 950 000 tonnes of sugar cane, producing 112 000 tonnes of sugar, of which more than 100 000 had already been produced.

"We are very happy with how things have gone. Production has been extremely good and by the end of this week Bulkeley should be closing and Andrews (St. Joseph) in the following week. It should be all

over by month-end or the first week in June.

"What is particularly heartening is that although production will be above last year's, not a single acre more had been planted," said Armstrong.

Armstrong attributed the increased production primarily to the adequate rainfall during the growing period, particularly around November last year.

However, one factor during production which has worried industry officials is the increased fires about the middle of the harvest. By the end of the crop, they predict, the final statistics on fires will be higher than last year's.

Despite the good sugar production and the control brought to fires within recent weeks, producers still feel they will be adding losses at the end of harvesting.

This is because they believe the price they will receive for the commodity overseas will not be enough to cover expenses.

So far more than 25 000 tonnes of sugar has been exported.

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BARBADOS

BRIEFS

JOINT VENTURE WITH VENEZUELA--Bridgetown, 19 May (CANA)--The National Housing Corporation, a Barbados state agency, and a private Venezuelan company are to build 450 houses here over a three-year period under a joint venture, Prime Minister Bernard St John announced last night. Speaking at a public meeting of the ruling Barbados Labour Party in the run-up to the 28 May general elections, he said financing for the project would come from credit under the oil facility extended to Barbados by the Caracas government. Under this facility, Venezuela and Mexico have been offering Caribbean and Central American states oil on concessionary terms. St John did not say when the project would get underway or how much money would be involved. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1455 GMT 19 May 86 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/463

BELIZE

ANGLICANS HIT USE OF CHURCH FOR POLITICAL AIMS

FL1251900 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 15 May 86

[For an 11 May 1986 BELIZE TIMES article dealing with alleged political involvement in Anglican Church affairs and the role of Rev Eric Richards in this activity, see pages P1-2 of the Latin American DAILY REPORT FBIS-LAM-86-097 of 20 May 1986]

[Excerpt] The Standing Committee of the Anglican Diocese has issued an official statement from the Anglican Diocese. In the statement, the standing committee states that the steering committee has no authority to speak for the Diocese of Belize. The standing committee "Unequivocally condemns the malicious and personal attack and the violence of language contained in the release and the pronouncement of those claimed to be spokesmen for the steering committee."

In particular, the standing committee deplores the threats of physical violence and of sacrilegious conduct offered by those pretending to speak for the church. The statement further states that such language and conduct has no place in the community of Christian people.

The standing committee regrets that the affairs of the Anglican Church have extended into the political arena. The committee "deplores the conduct of those who have sought to gain political profit by scandalizing the church."

The release also states that "the Canon Reverend Eric Richards has assured the bishop that his desire to be transferred was not motivated by any problem with the bishop and as recently as last week confirmed to the standing committee that his wish to be transferred did not arise out of any problems with the bishop. He said that he does not have and never has had any problems with Bishop McMillan."

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GRENADA

JAMAICAN DEFENSE TEAM IN BISHOP TRIAL GETS DEATH THREAT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 86 p 1

[Text]

The Jamaican legal defence team in the Maurice Bishop murder case in Grenada was threatened with assassination shortly after arrival there on Saturday, according to reports reaching Jamaica.

In a statement yesterday, Mr. Maurice Tenn, attorney-at-law, said that Mr. Ian Ramsay, leader of the defence team, reported that he received a telephone call at his hotel in Grenada about 3.15 p.m. Saturday in which a caller told him "There is a plot to assassinate you and two members of your team. One of them is a woman."

Mr. Tenn's statement said: "Mr. Ramsay said that the caller spoke in a very deep voice. Mr. Ramsay further reported that the team's reception in Grenada was more hostile than on the last occasion."

"The legal defence team will be joined by Guyanese senior counsel Clarence Hughes. The team is in Grenada to argue the referral of the Bishop murder case to the Constitutional Court of Grenada."

"The arguments will take place before the Court of Appeal of Grenada. The appeal

was filed when the Acting Chief Justice Byron refused a referral of Constitutional questions to the Constitutional Court of Grenada. The Court of Appeal had previously ruled that the present High Court over which Byron presided was not the Constitutional Court, but a 'Court of Necessity'.

"In March the defence argued a motion before Acting Chief Justice Byron that the accused would not obtain a fair trial in Grenada, and requested that he refer under the Constitution the question of a fair trial to the Constitutional Court of Grenada."

The Acting Chief Justice not only refused the motion to refer, but also refused to stay the trial proceedings pending the outcome of an appeal on his ruling. It was on that occasion that the accused told the Court that they would not take part in such a trial, and instructed their attorneys to withdraw from the case.

"It is expected that the defence team will apply to the Court of Appeal on Monday to order a Stay of Proceedings in the present trial," the statement said.

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CSO: 3298/465

GUYANA

ENVOY TO U.S. ANSWERS HERITAGE FOUNDATION INTERVIEWEE

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Apr 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

Guyana's foreign policy is based on non-alignment but this position does not necessarily imply equidistance between the two major powers.

Over the years Guyana has developed relations with the Soviet Union and with other Eastern European countries, essentially of a commercial nature and in keeping with foreign policy thrust. It has also developed relations with countries in the Third World and in the West.

Ambassador to Washington, Cde Cedric Grant, recently restated Guyana's foreign policy when he was asked to respond to ill-informed and misleading statements by one Timothy Ashby of the Heritage Foundation.

Ashby had said in an interview with Bill Rogers of the Voice of America that there were deliveries military equipment from the eastern bloc and that there is a move toward a soviet-style government in Guyana.

He identified as military

equipment, the Soviet-made helicopters and the new aircraft purchased by the Guyana Airways Corporation. The helicopters, he contended, were of the type that could be converted to gunships and that the aircraft could be modified to become troop carriers.

More untruth was revealed in his statement that Deputy Leader and General Secretary, Cde Reng Chendish, was "a hard-line, Moscow-trained ideologue". In fact Cde Chendish was educated at Harvard University in the United States.

These and other charges, promoted his call for "diplomatic pressure" against Guyana. Such pressure, he felt, should include withholding of US aid and that the US should be "firm in pressuring" the Guyana government to change its policy.

As Cde Grant re-asserted, Guyana is unapologetic about its foreign policy and about the relations it has developed in pursuit of its non-aligned policy.

Guyana has developed relations with many countries including those in the West and in the Third World.

Canada, one of the countries with which Guyana has good relations, has been instrumental in helping this country rehabilitate some of its hinterland airstrips which Ashby says, are for military purposes.

Guyana intends to have more of these airstrips rehabilitated since, for the greater part, air travel is the only way of reaching some hinterland communities.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

PNC FORMALIZES MEETINGS, PLUGS NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCES

Institutionalized Meetings

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Apr 86 pp 1, 2

[Text]

WHEN Leader of the People's National Congress, Cde. Desmond Hoyte, addressed the general members' meeting of the Georgetown District of the Party he announced that such meetings are to be institutionalized and to become statutory features in the life of the Party.

Since then a number of these meetings have been held in the regions. To date four meetings have been

held in Region Four. These were held at Golden Grove, La Bonne Intention, Craig and Georgetown.

In Region Three one meeting has been held. Others are to be held at Leguan, Wateneeri and on the West Coast.

Five meetings have been held in Region Six. One of these was addressed by Cde. Deputy Leader and General Secretary Ranji Chandisingh. These meetings were

held at Leeds, Rose Hall, New Amsterdam, Manchester, New Market and Corriverton. Another meeting is scheduled for Canje during this week.

Meetings at which the Comrade Leader was present have been held in Regions Two and Ten. These meetings coincided with the Comrade Leader's visit to these regions.

Role of Neighborhood Conferences

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 13 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

"We can, We must, We will stand up for Guyana" is the theme under which some 80 Neighbourhood Conferences of the People's National Congress are being held in the 10 Regions of Guyana this year.

Already some 15 Neighbourhoods have held their conferences.

Neighbourhoods scheduled to hold Conferences today are Cummingsburg, at Bishop's High School; Festival City/ North Ruimveldt, at South Ruimveldt Park Primary School; Botanical Gardens/ Lodge, at the Lodge/ La Penitence Sub-District Office; Moshiburu/ Mazaruni at Two Miles Primary School; and Linden/ North East at Amelle's Ward Government School; Lima/ Three Friends at Anna Catherine Community High School; Riverstown Annandale at Johanna Cecille Community High; Good Hope Pomona; Aberdeen Zee-en-Vlygt at Queenstown Primary School.

The holding of Neighbourhood Conferences is entrenched in the Constitution of the People's National Congress. According to Article 32 of the Constitution Neighbourhood Conferences are to be held annually in April. And since this year the Party is pursuing the aim of further strengthening itself both quantitatively and qualitatively, the Conferences are focusing on this question.

Other highlights of these conferences will be the submission of programmes of work which are usually prepared in January; a feature address which is centred on the theme of the Conference; and the nomination and installation of Neighbourhood Committee officers for the new year. Every Party member within the Neighbourhood is entitled to attend and have a vote in its elections.

The role Neighbourhoods can play in further strengthening the Party cannot be overemphasised. It is the responsibility of the

Neighbourhood Committee to ensure that Party Groups in the Neighbourhood function effectively; to ensure that promotional work is done to form new groups and, where necessary, resuscitate dormant groups; to ensure that programmes of activities are educational and community oriented, thus sustaining interest in Party Groups.

Then there is the implementation of a programme of out-reach work in each People's Co-operative Unit to seekise all residents on the aims and objectives of the PCU in addition to discussing programmes of national interest and community programmes.

With the introduction of Neighbourhoods in the Party's Regional structure. Party members are being elected to representative positions to help in the supervision and development of Party organs. This facilitates increased communication and greater participation in decision-

making.

For example, all Chairmen of Neighbourhood Committees are these official representatives of the District Committee, which reports to the Regional Committee, which will in turn reports to the PNC General Council. In addition, all Secretaries of Neighbourhood Committees are the official representatives to the Party's General Council which is the highest body of the Party between Congresses.

Neighbourhood Sub-divisions are therefore another successful opportunity to further democratise the Party and put more decision-making power in the hands of grass-root members.

It offers Neighbourhood leaders an opportunity to sharpen their awareness of the Party's policies and the interpretation of such policies.

Equally important, it decreases alienation and estrangement and brings Party leadership into closer contact with people.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGION INVITES HOYTE TO SPEAK

'Myth' of PNC Paramountcy

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 13 Apr 86 p 2

[Text]

THE COMMITTEE appointed by the President last September to advise him on religious matters has, it would seem, advised him to turn the Committee into an executive body for the purpose of organising a religious service.

The President has apparently accepted the advice and so the Committee is busy preparing for a religious service at the Cultural Centre on Sunday.

Moreover, according to the Chronicle, the Committee has invited the President to be the main speaker in order to tell the religious bodies how to bring peace, love and unity to the country.

No doubt, the Committee also advised him to accept the invitation and he has graciously done so.

Members of the Committee in the meantime no longer sit on it in their private capacities, as was first announced.

According to the Chronicle, they are now "representatives of all religious bodies in the country."

Some Churches which have not been consulted about appointing a representative, would surely object to this.

The message will undoubtedly be conveyed to our Caricom sister states that the ruling party is most interested in religion and has the full support of most of the religious bodies in the country - all, that is, except those Churches, or rather, those heads,

who form the Guyana Council of Churches.

Some of these heads have in the past been difficult. They have strongly advocated respect for human rights.

Some have even been most critical of the regime and have spoken out forcefully against rigged elections.

They have objected to the homes of Church leaders being searched for arms and ammunition and to the deportation of a priest.

But, as the Advisory Committee will show, people of all religious persuasions will turn out in large numbers for the service to hear of "The Role of Religious Organisations in Promoting Peace, Love and Unity."

The Caribbean Heads who met at Mustique will be especially glad to know that the PNC is succeeding in refurbishing its image that had been so badly besmirched in recent months.

We fully agree with the organisers of the service that there is great need for unity in our country today. We all need to work together for the reconstruction of our country.

This unity, however, will not be achieved by acting out the myth that the whole country - its Churches, trade unions, business and other organisations and all its peoples - are united under the umbrella of the party which calls itself paramount. This only tends to widen the rifts.

The Churches, we are convinced, have a special part to play in promoting unity.

They can best accomplish this in their own organisations, such as the Guyana Council of Churches without the intervention of the state.

Any effort at fostering religious unity that chooses to ignore this Council cannot be taken seriously.

Hoyte Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Apr 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE religious diversity of the Co-operative Republic was dramatically illustrated at the first ever Inter-Religious Assembly which convened at a packed National Cultural Centre yesterday. All major religious groups were represented.

These included representatives from the Christian, Muslim and Hindu faiths, from the Bahai's the Brahma Kumaris, Raj Yoga Centre, the Hallelujah Group and the Guyana Order of Rastafari. The backdrop to the occasion was characterised by drumming, singing and dancing. In particular, the fine and distinctive voices of members of the Hallelujah Group gave point and tone to the occasion.

It all began with the Chairman Cde. Brenda Aaron, who is a member of both the Brahma Kumaris and of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Religious Affairs, expressing the conviction that this was an occasion for togetherness and cohesion; and that it was inevitable that the religious diversity of Guyana would be given this kind of expression.

Fr. Gilbert Harris, Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee, gave a background to the occasion and emphasised that the Assembly provided an opportunity to glorify God.

President Hoyte then made

his address, and reflected on the importance of religion to society. Religion, he contended, was a unifying force which could promote cohesion. In addition, religion accommodates different shades of opinion.

Citing Aristotle, that the State came into being for the sake of a good life, the President contended that this good life could be founded on the triple ideal that informs the theme of the Assembly — Peace, Love and Unity.

The President referred to the occasion as a public affirmation of the face of the various religious groups. It further demonstrated the existence of a tolerant, humane society in Guyana. Guyanese must therefore cherish and strengthen the basis of such a society.

President Hoyte said that in other parts of the world, religion has led to bigotry, intolerance and fanaticism, which in turn has led to conflict, division and strife.

But in Guyana we have an open, tolerant and humane society, a society of which we can be proud.

The President said that we have established the framework that guarantees the "full flowering of religious life" in Guyana. The Constitution, the Government and State all guarantee the right to the pursuit of the objectives of the theme "Peace, Love and Unity."

"Peace, Love and Unity" is the theme of yesterday's Assembly.

The President stressed the need for people to be involved in practical work among the poor, the sick, the disadvantaged and the needy.

Cde. Hoyte told the capacity audience at the Cultural Centre that peace has been at the core of all great religious teachings. It is a "dominant recurring theme", he said. He noted that without peace there could be no personal or national development.

He said that it was unfortunate that there were still those who did not understand the process of change and who did not realise that the conditions of the country had changed.

"Time and tide" are against them, the President said. "Truth and justice" are on our side and the evidence of our success is manifest for all to see. He called on the gathering to outwit the few who have a vested interest in disunity, not by confrontation and conflict but by winning them "over to our side."

Public occasions can have a positive impact on a society. And it is generally agreed that the Inter-Religious Assembly added to the awareness of Guyanese for the need for continued harmony and enduring values. It was a good day for Guyana.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

AGREEMENTS WITH VENEZUELA SPUR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

Hoyte Broadcast

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Apr 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

PRESIDENT Desmond Hoyte, in a broadcast last night, told the nation of economic agreements reached with Venezuela and of a full supply of petroleum products from next month.

Here is the text of the President's address:
My Dear Fellow Citizens,

A little under a month ago, that is, on Saturday, March 22, I discussed with you the difficulties we had been having with our petroleum supplies and explained what the Government had been doing to manage the situation and resolve the problem. On that occasion, I also undertook to inform you about developments as they arose from time to time.

I am glad to say that, since then, the Government has been able to make concrete progress in establishing arrangements designed to ensure that we will be able to obtain our petroleum supplies in the quantities and with the regularity which our economy requires.

FUEL SUPPLIES FROM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In my broadcast, I had explained to you how the temporary cessation of rice exports to Trinidad and Tobago had restricted our ability to import fuel from our

sister Caricom State, which had been our traditional source.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to resume rice exports to our sister Caricom State, but we do fully appreciate the circumstances which have prevented her from being able to accept shipments from us, for the time being. We are, however, sanguine that we will eventually be able to conclude a contract, and are therefore continuing to work very earnestly towards this end.

GUYANA - VENEZUELA ECONOMIC AND TRADE CO-OPERATION

We have been exploring various possibilities for dealing with our petroleum supply situation. In particular, our Government has been engaged in discussions with the Government of Venezuela within the framework of existing agreements for economic and trade co-operation and more especially, the accords reached during February 1985 when the Foreign Minister of Venezuela visited Georgetown. These discussions have focused on a practical programme for strengthening economic and commercial relations as envisaged by the agreements to which I have referred.

I am happy to be able to say to you this evening that these discussions have been most successful and have resulted in certain agreements

to implement a programme which would involve an increase of trade between our countries. One of the beneficial results of this trade expansion is that we will be able to secure adequate supplies of petroleum products over the next year. Another is that there will be substantial increases in exports of our bauxite products to Venezuela during 1986 and 1987; and there will be, moreover, opportunities for the enlargement of reciprocal trade in other commodities.

Press releases announcing the agreements were issued by the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela simultaneously in Georgetown and Caracas, respectively, at 12 noon, Guyana time, today.

Basically, the agreements involve a counter-trade element, that is, the supply to Guyana by Venezuela of petroleum products and the supply by Guyana to Venezuela of bauxite products. They also provide for various financing mechanisms which, among other things, include credit and "roll-over" arrangements.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CARICOM TRADE

I wish to make it clear that the agreements do not in any way reflect a lessening of our commitment to Caricom or to the expansion of Caricom trade. As I said in my broadcast on March 22, we

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would not desire to withdraw voluntarily from our traditional Caricom source of supply. On the contrary, I consider it important to stress that the arrangements we have made are not to be construed as a weakening of trading and economic relations with our sister Caricom State — indeed, far from it.

However, because of the rice export problem to which I have referred, we arrived at a situation in which it was progressively harder to sustain our petroleum imports from our traditional source, given the sharp reduction in our earnings from rice exports. I explained to you in my last broadcast why it is necessary for us to have arrangements which will enable us to offset some part of the cost of petroleum imports against our export receipts. To the extent that such export receipts are severely restricted, it becomes increasingly difficult for us to pay for fuel imports.

TRADITIONAL TRADING RELATIONS

But, notwithstanding these difficulties, we have sought in a number of ways to ensure the integrity of our traditional trading relations.

In the first place, the agreements have been carefully framed as not to preclude us from importing petroleum products from our traditional source, Trinidad and Tobago; and, of course, such imports will become possible as our own exports generate adequate export receipts.

Second, we have been pursuing a number of initiatives aimed at expanding rapidly our non-oil trade and

strengthening economic co-operation. These include investment, joint venture, buy-back and other arrangements. I hope some time in the future to discuss these matters with you in greater detail as they mature.

May I now say something more about the agreements. The discussions leading up to them took place in Georgetown earlier this month and the decisions arrived at were initialled by the representatives of the two governments on the evening of Thursday last. The formal signing will take place in Caracas later this week on Thursday and the agreements will come into effect next month. The Guyana Government team at the signing ceremony will be led by Deputy Prime Minister, Cde. Haslyn Parris, who was in charge of the negotiations on our side.

IMPROVEMENT IN OUR SITUATION

I would now like to let you know two important practical effects of the implementation of these agreements.

First, beginning next month, the country would be assured of its full supply of petroleum products. Therefore, all shortages would come to an end; and the queues will disappear, along with the several irritants engendered by the inadequate quantities of petroleum products within recent months.

Second, during the course of next month, G.E.C. would be able to end its programme of scheduled outages.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

I am sure that all citizens will

welcome this improvement in our situation. I am equally sure that we will all be sufficiently civic-minded and responsible to appreciate that this improvement should not be regarded as licence to resume the wasteful use of energy. We have to continue to manage our energy resources with the utmost skill and efficiency and I would accordingly urge that we do not relax the efforts we have been making to this end. Energy conservation must remain a main component of national economic policy.

DISCIPLINED RESPONSE OF CITIZENS

In this respect, I would once more like to say how very highly the Government has appreciated the disciplined manner in which citizens have responded to the temporary difficulties caused by the fuel problem. We can all be proud of ourselves and of the example we have set to one another and to the country.

There is likely to be some problem with supply between now and the early part of next month when we expect the agreement to be implemented. I would therefore, ask all citizens to show the same understanding, discipline and sense of responsibility which have characterised our approach to the energy situation over the past weeks.

In the meantime, I wish to reaffirm that securing and maintaining the interest and well-being of the people of Guyana will continue to be my own and the Government's preoccupation and priority.

Analysis of Provisions

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 27 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

AS THE LINES of cars idling around the filling stations grew longer and tempers of motorists and commuters grew shorter, Venezuela came to Guyana's aid by agreeing to supply all the petroleum products Guyana may need.

The oil is due to start flowing to Guyana early next month as part of an economic and commercial package.

Basically, the package contains a counter trade element by which Venezuela will supply principally

petroleum products to Guyana and Guyana will export principally bauxite products to Venezuela.

But also included in the package are agreements to expand trade in other products, investments and joint ventures to be undertaken in Guyana and credit facilities to be provided to facilitate the increased trade.

President Hoyte went on the air last Sunday night to announce the agreements with Venezuela, a week after the Catholic Standard had carried the story.

He connected the new development with existing agreements for economic and trade co-operation, especially those reached during Feb. 1985 when the Venezuelan Foreign Minister visited Georgetown.

But the recent negotiations that culminated with the signing of new agreements in Caracas last Thurs. April 24, followed a visit to Venezuela of Attorney-at-Law Jai Narine Singh who was received by President Lusinchi and External Affairs Minister Consalve.

The Venezuelan Government then sent a team to Guyana to discuss conditions regarding the supply of petroleum products to that country.

The team, Sr Pedro Sorensen of the External Affairs Ministry, Sr Pratts of Petroleum of Venezuela and Sr Vitoria of the Finance

Ministry, together with technical staff, flew into Guyana on April 13 and again on April 15, spending two days on each visit, working out with Guyanese officials details of the agreements.

These details have not been disclosed, but it is known that Venezuela had expressed willingness to take upwards of 300,000 tonnes of bauxite this year and more than 500,000 next year.

It is obvious that at the current levels of bauxite prices, these quantities would be insufficient by a long way to cover the cost of the petroleum products that Venezuela proposed to supply.

Guyana's annual oil bill is estimated at US\$80m, of which US\$30m is for the bauxite industry.

The price of the bauxite to be exported on the other hand falls far below this sum.

It is assumed, therefore, that the credit and roll over arrangements will make accommodation for the shortfall in payment.

The details of these arrangements were not disclosed.

The President was at pains to say that the agreements with Venezuela "do not in any way reflect a lessening of our commitment to Caricom or to the Caricom trade."

He indicated that Guyana's not buying oil from the traditional Caricom source was not voluntary.

Guyana apparently had no alternative in the circumstances.

Trinidad and Tobago had stopped giving Guyana credit for oil supplies as Guyana's debt had reached nearly TT\$500m.

There was no foreign exchange to pay for oil and Trinidad and Tobago had not taken any rice from Guyana since December.

The President indicated that Guyana could return to its traditional source "as our exports generate adequate export receipts."

"The agreements (with Venezuela)", he said, "have been carefully framed as not to preclude us from importing petroleum products from our traditional source, Trinidad and Tobago."

This is not likely in the case of rice till after July, as Trinidad and Tobago, according to informed sources, has enough bulk rice, imported from the USA by private importers, to last till July.

But the sources say that our Caricom Sister state is still willing to resume purchases of Guyana rice at a preferential price when the present stocks are finished.

The President in his broadcast, declared "we do fully appreciate the circumstances which have prevented her from being able to accept shipments from us, for the time being."

The oil companies that serve Guyana, it is understood, will be responsible for shipping the oil from Venezuela and distributing it in Guyana.

The coming weeks before the arrival of the shipments from Venezuela will be critical, as stocks have run very low.

The President hinted at this when he said: "There is likely to be some problem with supply between now and the early part of next month," and called for understanding, discipline and a sense of responsibility.

Said one motorist, echoing the view of many whose patience was at breaking point, "It's they who are responsible for this mess we're in, and yet they want us to have a sense of responsibility."

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GUYANA

TRADE POSSIBILITIES DISCUSSED WITH ANTIGUA-BARBUDA

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Apr 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

RECENT talks between Guyana and Antigua and Barbuda have resulted in a number of areas for possible trade between the two Caricom states being identified.

The talks were held on April 5 and 6, when a trade team from Guyana, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Haslyn Parris visited the twin-island sister Caricom State.

Reporting on the talks yesterday, a senior Trade official explained that Government and other officials in Antigua and Barbuda have expressed much interest in Guyanese products such as semi-precious stones and jewellery, timber, and shrimp, while the possibility of Guyana importing paint was examined.

The trade talks were part of the continuing efforts in the wake of the Mustique meeting involving President Desmond Hoyte and six Caricom colleagues during which they agreed to

take steps to stimulate and expand intra-Caricom trade.

A Guyana trade mission has already visited seven other Caricom states, laying the groundwork for increased trade and economic co-operation. Several of the initiatives taken during those meetings are already being acted upon, with sugar being shipped to St. Vincent and The Grenadines, and substantial efforts being made to liquidate outstanding payments to Dominica for soap. Arrangements are already in place for another shipment of soap from Dominica within the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, a trade team from St. Vincent and The Grenadines led by that country's Trade Minister, Marcos De Freitas, is expected in Guyana later this month for discussions with Trade Minister Winston Murray and other Trade officials.

The St. Vincent Minister, who will attend the upcoming Caricom Council of Ministers' meeting in Georgetown, will lead his country's delegation in follow-up talks on Cde.

Murray's visit to St. Vincent and six other regional states last month.

During the recent talks in Antigua and Barbuda, the Guyana team expressed Guyana's willingness to engage in joint ventures with other Caricom States.

There was "keen interest" in Guyana's semi-precious stones and jewellery, and the possibilities for trade are to be further explored, the Trade official explained.

Antigua and Barbuda is also interested in increasing its imports of shrimp from Guyana and the Guyana Fisheries Limited is expected to respond shortly.

The possible sale of rice and utility poles by Guyana to Antigua and Barbuda is also to be explored during further discussions.

Antigua and Barbuda has a surplus production of paint and the Guyana team undertook to consider importing the commodity from that country in 1986, taking into account the current shortage of raw materials for paint manufacture in Guyana.

Other members on the Guyana team were Cde. Darlene Harris of the Office of the President and Cde. Avinash Bhagwandin of the Ministry of Trade.

Among the officials with whom discussions were held were representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy. There were also representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Lands, the National Marketing Corporation and the local private sector.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

RELATIONS WITH GREECE CITED AS NEW ENVOY ACCREDITED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Apr 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

VICE-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney-General, Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen has expressed the hope that relations between Guyana and Greece will be further strengthened in the coming years.

"We are convinced that there are several avenues for fruitful bilateral co-operation between Guyana and Greece...", Dr Shahabuddeen said on Wednesday during the accreditation of Greek Ambassador to Guyana, Mr Nikolaos Dimades.

The accreditation ceremony took place in the Credentials Room, Presidential Secretariat.

Guyana and Greece, the Vice-President said, share a common commitment to the cause of global peace, security and justice as have so often been demonstrated at various international fora.

This has provided a favourable background for the development of friendly relations between the two countries, he continued.

"It has always been for us a matter of policy to support the principle of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and independence of states and to reject all forms of interference that threaten or violate that principle.

"I wish to take this occasion to reiterate the unswerving support of the Government of Guyana to the search for a just and peaceful solution of the Cyprus question, one that would guarantee the integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus," Dr Shahabuddeen said.

And in his accreditation speech, Ambassador Dimades also expressed deep appreciation of the Greek Government for the principled position Guyana has taken on the subject of Cyprus.

He said Greece and Guyana share the same fate in democracy, peace and social progress.

"Greece and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana are already developing their relations in the context of the co-operation between the European Community and the ACP countries, of which Guyana is an active member," Dimades observed.

Furthermore, he said, "the Greek Government assigns great importance to the parallel development of our bilateral relations in all areas—political, economic and cultural."

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GUYANA

TRADE WITH YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING BAUXITE, UNDER WAY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Apr 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

A SHIPMENT of Guyana's bauxite will shortly leave for Yugoslavia in exchange for a number of buses, marking a major step in the realisation of practical co-operation between the two non-aligned countries.

This was disclosed yesterday by Yugoslavia's Ambassador Janko Lazarevski who leaves the country next week at the end of his diplomatic tour here.

"My stay during the past five years has been very pleasant," Lazarevski said in an interview, during which he also spoke of the role of Guyana and Yugoslavia in the Non-Aligned Movement and the importance of South-South as well as North-South co-operation.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, a framework based on understanding has been established for long term co-operation, the Ambassador noted.

Negotiations are continuing, the Ambassador said, to implement other aspects of trade agreements signed between the two states last year, when the late President Forbes Burnham visited Yugoslavia.

Under a general trade and economic agreement, the two countries have been seeking to co-operate in a number of areas including soya and corn production, for which a joint venture is in the making.

And in keeping with a scientific and technical co-

operation agreement between the two countries, Yugoslavia has assisted Guyana particularly in the dairy industry. A feasibility study for the expansion of the industry was completed last month.

Guyana-Yugoslavia co-operation has also been responsible for rehabilitation work at the Georgetown Milk Plant.

Last year's agreements also made provision for Guyana to obtain a \$10m(US) line of credit from Yugoslavia, principally for the acquisition of capital goods such as agriculture machinery.

Ambassador Lazarevski identified forestry, the agriculture sector and the food processing industries as possible areas for further collaboration.

While stressing the value of South-South co-operation, he said North-South co-operation is equally important, since it is in the developed North that advanced technology and capital can be found.

In recognition of this, he said, Guyana and Yugoslavia have been working with a number of countries in the United Nations, the Group of 77 and other international fora for re-establishing North-South dialogue.

Speaking about the foreign policies of Guyana and Yugoslavia, the Ambassador pointed out that such policies are strictly non-aligned, irrespective of what some may say.

He said the two countries have always respected and adhered to the fundamental principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and consequently do not support bloc politics.

GUYANA

DPRK FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION HERE FOR TALKS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Apr 86 pp 1, 7

[Text]

A three-member Foreign Ministry team from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which arrived in Guyana Wednesday evening, yesterday began preliminary discussions with local officials on matters of bilateral and international importance.

The discussions, initiated by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cde Lennie Gouveia, touched on several issues including the forthcoming Olympic Games, Desk Officer in the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, June Persaud has disclosed.

The DPRK has proposed that the 24th Olympic Games, planned for 1988 in South Korea, be held under the joint sponsorship of Pyongyang and Seoul.

The team is currently on an official tour of the region and is headed by DPRK Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cde Chong Jae Hong.

Today the team is scheduled to continue discussions with the Director of Political Division 1 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Rudy Insanally.

Members will also hold talks with Ambassador Rudy Collins, Head of Political Division 11 as well as Head

of the Department of International Economic Co-operation, Cde Donald Abrams.

Later, they will pay a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson.

During their stay, the DPRK officials will tour on-going Guyana-DPRK Joint ventures including the Eclipse Falls hydro-power project at Arakaka in the North West District and the experimental farm and rebuild workshop at Burma, East Coast, Demerara.

They are also expected to visit the Institute of Applied Science and Technology at Turkeyen.

[On 23 April, pages 4-5, the CHRONICLE had carried the following report:

["A three-member Foreign Ministry team from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) headed by Cde Chong Jae Hong, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrives in Guyana today on a two-week working visit.

["The team is currently on an official tour of the region and will be in Guyana to discuss issues of bilateral and international importance, a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

["The visit is a reciprocal one following that of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cde Dennis Gouveia, to the DPRK in June 1985, when Guyana and the DPRK signed an agreement for co-operation between their respective Foreign Ministries."]

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

OFFSHORE BANKING BILL PASSED AFTER ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION

Debate in Parliament

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Apr 86 pp 1, 4

[Text]

'Guyana' has certain advantages as a potential centre for offshore banking and should exploit the benefits of this form of international banking. Finance Minister Carl Greenidge told the National Assembly yesterday.

Cde Greenidge presented for its second reading the Offshore Banking Bill, seeking to promote Guyana as an offshore banking centre and proposing "a comprehensive regime of safeguards" to monitor and regulate such banking operations.

The second reading of the Bill had been deferred from Monday because of a number of corrections which were circulated, and well into the debate yesterday, another deferment was made, to tomorrow, after United Force Leader Marcellus Foiden-Singh pointed out that several further amendments had been circulated at yesterday's sitting. Mr. Singh said that he could not make a meaningful contribution to the debate as there was no time to study the amendments. By this time, the Finance Minister had explained to the Assembly the developments in international banking which Government hoped to exploit and some of the administrative, legal and financial monitoring aspects of the Bill.

Minority Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan, the other speaker in the adjourned debate, stated the PPP's opposition to the Bill.

"Whither are we drifting?" he asked the Assembly, and

referred to the PNC's Declaration of Sophia, as he contended that the Government through the Offshore Bill, was courting economic and political dependence. "We had a certain perspective in the declaration," Dr. Jagan said in one of his many references to the policy document.

Cde Greenidge had earlier explained to the Assembly that Offshore banking, a growing industry in the Caribbean and further afield, involved the receipt of foreign currency and other assets from non-residents, for use for their benefit, and the making of loans to non-residents, among other transactions.

Companies and other users of these services benefit by avoiding taxation on their revenues, which are accounted for outside their native countries.

Offshore banking are of two basic types, involving actual movement of cash, or mainly paper transactions. The latter type is dominant in the Caribbean and it is this which Guyana expects to attract.

Referring to the two types of offshore banking, PPP's Dr. Jagan said the type in which there is a considerable physical presence in the host country "has some advantages".

He projected that Guyana would attract only the second type, where there is a "nominal presence" and the companies "fly in and fly

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out". The other Caribbean countries cannot yet graduate from this second type to the first type, he noted.

Infrastructure for offshore banking and monitoring the operations are very costly, he said, pointing out also the danger of trafficking becoming associated with the business. The dangers will be too great for the benefit received, he contended.

Government should concentrate on basic problems of production, and "how to stick to the Declaration (of Sophia) and its major principles". Instead of pursuing offshore banking, he said. "We oppose this Bill," the PPP Leader stated.

Finance Minister Greenidge said among the benefits envisaged for Guyana through the development of offshore banking are hard currency payments of between one and two-and-a-half per cent of profits and gains of the companies which operate here, employment of Guyanese citizens, and the development of tourism, communication services and infrastructure associated with offshore banking.

In addition, Cde Greenidge pointed out to the Assembly, that the Bill provides for investment by offshore banking companies in the development of agricultural, industrial mining, tourist and other enterprises in the hinterland, if the companies supply the necessary hard currency.

Guyana, he stated, has some major advantages in relation to the conduct of offshore banking.

As an English-speaking country in a region dominated by non-English-speakers, it has an advantage in the English-language-dominated

international banking business, it is relatively close to the United States and other major centres on the South American continent, and it enjoys political stability.

There are negative aspects of offshore banking which must be addressed, Cde Greenidge conceded, mentioning the possibility of illegal transactions such as tax evasion, as against tax avoidance, trafficking, and embezzlement.

"Unlike the ostrich, we realise that there are certain phenomena taking place around us," he said.

Consequently, the proposals before the Assembly seek to provide a framework in which offshore banking services can be provided "without endangering our objectives," the Minister said.

The Bill places heavy reliance on ministerial approval and establishment of bona fides of potential directors of companies, while providing for withholding or withdrawal of licences, reporting by companies, auditing by firms appointed by the Minister, penalties, and High Court action.

There is a "comprehensive regime of safeguards," he stressed.

The Bill was drafted to a "state of the art" level as far as regulating offshore banking is concerned, the Finance Minister said.

When the debate resumes tomorrow, UF Leader Marcellus Feilden-Singh is expected to be among the speakers. When he rose to speak in the debate at yesterday's sitting, he indicated his support, in principle, for the Bill, before he successfully proposed that debate be deferred to tomorrow.

National Assembly Passage

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE Offshore Banking
Bill was approved by the
National Assembly

yesterday at the end of a second day of debate in which the WPA and PPP opposed the measures and the United Force abstained from voting, after earlier voicing support in principle.

Speakers of all three Minority parties referred to one or two publications on offshore banking in their presentations, highlighting perceived disadvantages or dangers in such business activity.

All three parties, however, made interventions when the Bill went for Committee consideration, proposing four amendments, one of which was adopted. This amendment, proposed by PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud, adds the bona fides of prospective directors of offshore businesses to the list of matters to be investigated when applications to operate in Guyana are being processed.

Finance Minister Greenidge also proposed, and gained approval, for four amendments to clarify and amplify sections of the Bill as first presented.

Winding up the debate yesterday afternoon, Cde. Greenidge referred to the reliance of Minority speakers on the two documents quoted in their presentations and contended that they should have spent more time reading the Bill before them.

Because this was not done, several "unwarranted" assumptions were made in their presentations, he said.

Cde. Greenidge opened the debate last Tuesday on the

Bill which is intended to promote Guyana as a responsible offshore banking centre. Business would be carried on from within Guyana in foreign moneys, securities, and properties for foreign customers, subject to the approval and monitoring by the Bank of Guyana and other Government agencies.

Guyana would receive fees of between one and two-and-a-half per cent of the gains of companies, in hard currency, and the business would be allowed to invest hard currency in hinterland development projects in agriculture, industrial mining and other areas.

UF leader, Marcellus Feilden Singh, last Tuesday had indicated "support, in principle" for the Bill before he was granted a postponement of the debate to further study the proposals. Yesterday, when the debate resumed he expressed "very grave reservations."

He read extensively from two documents on offshore banking, pointing out disadvantages including an alleged "drain on the local economy" associated with offshore banking operations.

Unless properly screened, the business is problematic, Mr. Feilden Singh said, while admitting that some of these issues are addressed in the legislation. In a division at the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Singh and fellow UF member Michael Abraham abstained from voting. "I will not support the Bill, I will not oppose it," the UF leader said, conceding only that he would wait and see if benefits such as the garnering of foreign exchange revenue

would be realised.

WPA's Eusi Kwayana also made several criticisms of the Bill, contending among other things, that the Government is "letting in the Trojan Horse", and moving from "investment by invitation" to "investment by conspiracy."

He followed the UF leader in quoting, from the book "Secrets of Offshore Tax Havens", by Robert Chappell, in which the author refers, to an alleged agreement between an insurance company in the Bahamas and the Guyana Government for offshore banking operations.

The Government is not "debating in good faith" if there was already an agreement signed with an offshore banking interest, the WPA leader charged.

CONTRACT

PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud referred to the same book and asked that the Finance Minister say whether a contract was signed for offshore banking. He repeated the PPP's opposition to the Bill, and charged that it "provides an opportunity for tax evaders and gangsters to raid our wealth and rob us of our rich natural resources."

Finance Minister Greenidge strongly rebutted the Minority claims, observing that the speakers "should have paid more attention to the substance of the Bill before us." Before the Bill was drafted the technicians made a thorough study of publications on offshore banking, not just general documents, Cde. Greenidge said.

The Bill explicitly excludes offshore banks from areas that might allow for leakage

of domestic resources to non-residents, offshore interests, and the banks will not be permitted to accept deposits from Guyanese, he stressed.

The Bill was not drafted to accommodate any agreement or agreements as suggested by the Minority, and although the Government has had discussions with representatives of 20 to 30 offshore banks, no document has been signed to establish any offshore bank, the Minister told the Assembly.

And he denied a suggestion by the PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud that non-resident depositors might succeed in removing domestic resources from Guyana because of the exemption of the offshore banks from Exchange Control Regulations.

Cde. Greenidge also corrected a Minority view of a section of the Bill that court action has to be taken before the offshore banking operations could be investigated. This is not necessarily so, the Minister stressed.

GROUNDWORK

He stressed that all the groundwork which has to be done in relation to offshore banking had been done, and the legislation proposed was "properly structured" and "widely informed".

When the division was taken on the approval of the second reading of the Bill, the WPA and PPP cast five opposing votes, the UF abstained, and the PNC 37 votes in favour, clearing the way for the Bill to go to section-by-section consideration in Committee, and for eventual approval with amendments to five sections. The Assembly adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT STRENGTHENED IN EAST BERBICE-CORENTYNE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Apr 86 pp 4-5

[Text]

THE staff of the Customs and Excise Department in Region Six, East Berbice-Corentyne, has been strengthened as the department implements a national plan to increase its revenue collection and to more effectively protect the country's resources.

Customs Officer Lloyd Forde told a meeting of the Region Six Regional Administrative Council in New Amsterdam that the staff has been increased from 15 to 26, with another three officers expected in the Region by monthend.

Through a recent reorganisation in the entire Customs and Excise Department, new departments have been created and staffing has been streamlined and upgraded. Much-needed equipment for operations to enforce compliance with Customs regulations is also expected this year.

Speaking at the RAC meeting in New Amsterdam last Thursday, Cde Forde, newly-appointed Regional Customs Head, said there had been an upsurge in smuggling along the eastern border.

Commodities involved in the trade include local sugar, rice and gold, which were being illegally shipped out of the country in exchange for a variety of items, which have been entering the country as contraband.

Since the strengthening of the Customs and Excise Department in the Region however, the department has achieved considerable suc-

cess, Cde Forde told the meeting. A car loaded with smuggled items was held last week in New Amsterdam, while in another incident, five persons were caught with a shipment of contraband at the No. 78 foreshore, Upper Corentyne. They were subsequently fined a total of more than \$16 000.

A boat and two outboard engines seized by the Customs during the anti-smuggling exercise at No. 78 were ordered forfeited.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

NATIONAL SERVICE FORMS DRUG EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 24 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

THE issue of drug abuse has been engaging the attention of the Guyanese society and steps are being taken to educate our young people about the ill-effects of this dangerous practice. The Guyana National Service is one of our foremost organisations which has formed a committee to deal with drug education.

This move by the GNS follows the establishment of a Drug Education Programme sponsored by the Ministry of Health and the National

Commission for UNESCO.

Members of the GNS committee will first undergo a period of training aimed at acquainting them with issues that are pertinent to drug abuse, identification of illegal drugs and law enforcement policies related to the use of these drugs. Security personnel within the organisation will also be trained in methods of detection.

The National Co-ordinating Council for Drug Education along with the Guyana Police Force will assist the GNS in training members of the committee.

These efforts by the GNS

and other organisations are in keeping with Government's policy on this issue. The signal that the Government is aware of the growing threat of drug abuse in our society and its firm resolve to deal with the issue came in President Desmond Hoyte's address at the ceremonial opening of the first session of the Fifth Parliament.

The President declared, "We have to deal with this evil in a prompt, vigorous and even ruthless way." Cde Hoyte also spoke of the intention to use the instrument of the law to deal with the incidents of drug abuse.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC SCRUTINY OF CORPORATIONS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

A PUBLIC Interest Committee is to be established to allow public corporations to function under public scrutiny and to be sensitive to public opinion, a release from the Office of the President said Tuesday.

No more than 12 persons will constitute the Committee, including representatives drawn from the Trades Union Congress, the Guyana Consumers Association, the Conference on the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana, the Sub-Committee on Consumer Affairs of the National Economic and Social Council and the Guyana National Association of Youth and Students.

The organisations concerned have already been asked to nominate their representatives to serve on the Committee.

The Committee is expected to begin its work later this month and will, in the first instance, focus on operations at Guyana Stores Limited, Guyana National Trading Corporation, the retail outlets of Guyana Fisheries Limited and the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation and the retail division of the Guyana National Engineering Corporation.

The Committee will be charged with:

- monitoring the operations at corporations with a view to ensuring goods and services of acceptable quality and reasonable prices are offered to customers;
- making recommendations for improving services offered by the corporations;
- alerting the management of corporations to consumers' problems, and
- recommending the manner in which the public can make the most effective use of the services provided, protect public property and promote and utilise the corporations' goods and services.

Each corporation will identify a senior manager with whom Committee members could discuss all matters. If at any time the Committee, after consultations with management of corporations, remains dissatisfied with the outcome of any matter, the Committee may have recourse to the Minister within the Office of the President. The Committee may also have access to the Minister to discuss matters of urgency.

The announcement that a mechanism is to be put in place for corporations to function under public scrutiny and be sensitive to public opinion was made by the President when he addressed the Sixth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress. This commitment was reiterated during the opening of the First Session of the Fifth Parliament of Guyana.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

JAGAN RESPONDS TO PERSONAL 'ATTACKS' IN GOVERNMENT MEDIA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 13 Apr 86 p 1

[Text]

PPP Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan in rebutting the gutter-class attacks on him from government mouthpieces issued the following release to the media:

In their vain attempts to denigrate the PPP and to undermine my authority, the Guyana Chronicle and the PNC's New Nation have launched a scurrilous campaign.

By using such words and language as 'gadabout' and 'jet-hopping' to 'many exotic parts of the world' they seek to create the impression that I was on a pleasure tour.

My visit abroad was not a holiday, but political work. I see no difference between my work overseas and in Guyana. In fact, abroad, I am forced by the self-imposed geographic time-frame, to work more intensively than at home.

It is understandable that the PNC does not like what I said on my recent visit overseas. But that does not give them the right to say that I am against 'Guyana's interests'. It must be stated that 'Guyana's interests' and the 'PNC's interests' are two different things. When the Chronicle editorial (03-04-02) falsely charges me for routine 'denunciation of Guyana' what it in fact means is 'routine denunciation of the PNC'.

So long as the PNC pursues a

system of bureaucratic/state and parasitic capitalism, consorts with imperialism and carries out anti-working class policies, I will be its inveterate critic, whether at home or abroad. The PPP does not see its international obligations taking precedence over Guyana's national interests. For us, patriotism and internationalism are two sides of the same coin.

My visits overseas are not a financial drain on the state treasury like those of the PNC elite, with their fat out-of-pocket allowances and other perks. The cost is borne by the PPP's constantly expanding membership and supporters.

By rigging elections and making another deal with imperialism, it is the PNC which is once again on a road of national betrayal, of sacrificing "Guyana's interests".

There can be no question of co-operation by me or the PPP with this evil course, which spells only more mis-development, under development and suffering.

Guyana's interests cannot be served without national and social liberation. And liberation demands national unity and international solidarity.

This strategy for liberation will determine my movements and tasks, not the fulminations of the PNC.

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CSO: 3298/474

GUYANA

WPA REPLIES TO VOA QUERIES ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC AID

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 14 Apr 86 p 3

[Text]

Asked by the VOA correspondent for a response to Prime Minister St John's reaction to moves by Britain and France to block Guyana from benefitting from CDB loans, the WPA said: "The statutes of the Caribbean Development Bank should provide an answer to the question of loans to Guyana at the present time.

"It is also the view of the party that economic assistance to Guyana is no more urgent than a just electoral and political system, because without this, there is no accountability, no responsibility and the final veto of the people over the political executive is absent.

"Economic assistance to Guyana is no more urgent than an adequate food supply because without this there is no urge to work."

The statement also pointed out that in 20 years of power, PNC leaders have not published their assets; no audited public accounts of the Guyana government exist for the past ten years; Guyana has no integrity laws.

"Pending the achievement of democratic elections in Guyana," WPA said it is "not a campaigner for foreign aid.

"If in any circumstances the party felt moved to campaign for foreign aid, it will have to be conditional on the passage in acceptable form and the quick implementation of the WPA motion in the National Assembly demanding Integrity legislation."

GUYANA

PAUL TENNASSEE REVIEWS NATIONAL ISSUES IN BAHAMAS ARTICLE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 22 May 86 p 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

A GUYANESE trade unionist urged the Bahamas as a member of Caricom to give its moral support to Guyana's struggle to regain its freedom.

Mr Paul Tennessee, a candidate in Guyana's December 1985 elections - called fraudulent by independent observers - said the peoples of Cuba, Haiti, Suriname and Guyana have a right to freedom just like the people of the Bahamas. Mr Tennessee was in the Bahamas for two weeks on the invitation of the Bahamas Hotel Workers Union. He left May 14.

(While in the Bahamas Mr Tennessee read "with interest the controversy in the media about Bahamas/Cuba relations." He has contributed an article which he thought could "contribute to an informed discussion about Cuba." His article is published on page 10).

Mr Tennessee, leader of the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), Guyana's only non-Communist party, said his party is now developing a system of resistance similar to that of India's Mohandas Gandhi and Dr Martin Luther King Jr. of the United States.

Mr Tennessee, who is also Secretary General of the Caribbean Workers Council, was dismissed from the University of Guyana as a Research Fellow because of his opposition to the ruling People's National Con-

gress (PNC), formerly led by Guyana's late president, Forbes Burnham and now headed by his successor, President Desmond Hoyte.

He said between 1965 and 1975, the PNC had defined itself as anti-Communist and pro-Western, but from 1975 to 1986 the party took a left turn, re-defining itself as Marxist-Leninist. It has started to develop a series of relationships with the Soviet Union, Cuba, North Korea and other communist countries.

Over the years, he said, the relationship between western nations and Guyana deteriorated, but inside Guyana the Government attempted to deal with the problems on two different levels.

"On the economic level they opted for state ownership, state control of the economy, and today we have a situation where the state controls the entire economy, about 80 per cent of the economy and whatever else is left is in the black market," he said.

Mr Tennessee said the Government has banned about 100 consumer items, which are essential to nutrition.

"They said inside Guyana that we have to produce or die," Mr Tennessee said. "They did not carry out a rational programme of import substitution. They just suddenly cut these products off in order, as

they say, to save foreign exchange.

"In the process, what has happened is that Guyana now has been taken over completely by the black market. So we have a problem in Guyana where to get a loaf of bread you have to pay \$10 on the black market and the minimum wage of the workers is \$16.25 Guyana dollars a day," he said.

He said that if a man has a family of six or seven, then he just can't have a loaf of bread in the morning because that takes away \$10 from his \$16.25 a day.

"What happens with rent, what happens with electricity, what happens with transportation for that day and what happens for the rest of the other two meals?" Mr Tennessee asked.

He said this has created a "bad situation" in Guyana and people have been trying to express disagreement with government policies by trying to change the Government.

"But we have had great difficulties with that because for the simple reason that the 1968, 1972, 1980, 1985, we have had four elections and in all these elections, they have been fraudulent," he said.

Mr Tennessee said that for the first time in the last election the DLM participated, but were only allowed to take part in public meetings.

"When the day of the election came, they took all of our polling agents and threw them into the streets. In one polling centre, in George Town, 12 thugs went in with guns, put them to the heads of our polling agents and threw them out on the street," he said.

"When the time came for checking the ballots, counting the votes, no preliminary count was done at the centres of voting but the army came, the crowd control tanks, armed to the teeth, dozens of soldiers, and with force, took away the boxes and went to the counting centres," he said.

He said that at the counting centres, the DLM were supposed to have counting agents, but they were not allowed into the centres to see how the votes were counted.

"And then the Government declared that the party now power in power had won 42 out of the 53 seats. They reduced the Communist party from about 15 seats to 11 seats or about eight seats. They gave another party called the Working Peoples' Alliance one seat," he said.

Mr Tennessee said there was a fictitious party in Guyana, which was a party of the Government, a party organised by the Government in the opposition, which was given two seats while the DLM received none.

"Now one of the main reasons why they did not give us any seats was because we are the only non-Communist, doctrinally democratic political party in Guyana," he said.

He said Guyana has three Marxist-oriented parties, the ruling PNC, the Working Peo-

ple's Alliance and the official Communist party, the People's Progressive Party.

"Now our movement did very well in the elections for several reasons. One was that we would have had about 15 seats in the elections, and this was judged from our membership rallies during the campaign, this was judged from the turn-outs we had in the elections and this was judged also by observers, both diplomatic and political observers in Guyana," he said.

"The situation is one, therefore, in which all the opposition parties have denounced the election as fraudulent. The Church has denounced the election as fraudulent and many Caribbean leaders denounced this as fraudulent," he said.

"And therefore, we are in the process in Guyana where we are in a struggle for national liberation," he said.

Mr Tennessee said a national conference was recently held when the position was taken that never again would the opposition participate in a national election organised by the PNC.

"We want Caricom, the United Nations or some international body like the Commonwealth to supervise elections in Guyana," he said. "And meanwhile if that is not done we will no longer participate in elections."

"So what we are developing now is a programme of resistance in Guyana, an active programme of resistance along Gandhite lines and along Martin Luther King's line," he said. "We don't believe in violence but we believe that it is very important that our people

have to actively resist to bring that dictatorship to an end as the people have done and are trying to do still in Haiti."

He said Guyana is a political dictatorship in the English-speaking Caribbean; Suriname a political dictatorship in the Dutch Caribbean; Cuba a political dictatorship in the Spanish Caribbean and Haiti a political dictatorship in the French Caribbean.

"It seems that in each linguistic area of the Caribbean we have a political dictatorship which exists and our position in the Caribbean Workers Council, and our position as the President of the Democratic Labour Movement, is we do not support any form of dictatorship, whether they be communist as in Cuba or capitalist as in Haiti," Mr Tennessee said.

"We believe that human beings were born free and no system has the right to put them in chains and the struggle of the people of Guyana requires the solidarity of the people of the Bahamas who enjoy freedom, and other sister Caribbean states who are members of Caricom," he said.

"And each country I go to I make a plea for solidarity that you all should raise your voices that the people of Guyana, the people of Cuba, the people of Haiti and the people of Suriname, have a right just like you enjoy your right to freedom," he said.

"That moral solidarity, I think, will be very useful and helpful to our struggle both inside and at the world level where we are trying to mobilize support for our struggle in Guyana."

/9274

CSO: 3298/474

2 July 1986

GUYANA

BRIEFS

REGIONAL PRODUCTION COMMITTEES--East Demerara (C.I.S.)—The first of 10 Regional Production Sub-Committees was launched yesterday in Region 4 (Demerara/Mahaica) by former Energy Minister Harun-Rashid. In doing so, Cde Rashid, now Head of Department of National Production of the P.N.C. said, "Production starts at the regional level and as such, the sum total of production in every Region adds up to the national production." Heading the broad-based eight-man Sub-Committee is Cde Joe Bacchus of Melanie Damishana, who brings to bear his considerable experience in the production sector. Other members are Cde Rowena Bacchus, Cde Sarah Fraser, Cde Cecil Mayers, Cde Clifford Josiah, Cde Beulah Grandsoult, Cde Buddy Hassan and Cde James Fraser. Objectives of the Sub-Committee include monitoring production and presenting periodic analytical reports on the state of production in the various sectors of the economy. The Sub-Committee will also identify and give early warning of actual and potential constraints to production and will make appropriate recommendations to the National Production Committee. This Committee is headed by Deputy Prime Minister Haslyn Parris, who is responsible for Planning. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Apr 86 p 1] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO USSR—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that Cde Malcolm Parris left-Guyana yesterday to take up his appointment as Guyana's new Ambassador to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Cde Parris, former Minister of Education, member of the Central Executive of the People's National Congress and Executive Secretary responsible for National Orientation and International Relations in the Ministry of National Development brings a wealth of experience to his new assignment as Guyana's third resident Ambassador to the Soviet Union. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Apr 86 p 1] /9274

PRIVATE-SECTOR AWARDS—Foreign companies operating in Guyana are eligible for awards under the President's Awards to Private Sector Industry, if their impact on the local economy is in keeping with the objectives of the Awards Scheme. Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Private Sector, Mike Brassington, gave this explanation at a recent press briefing on the Awards Scheme, details of which have been announced. The objectives of the scheme, Mr Brassington noted, are to: --increase foreign currency earnings; --encourage the manufacture of products using local raw material; --create job opportunities and increase employment; --encourage manufacturers to penetrate additional markets; and --encourage invention-innovation in Guyana to increase the competitiveness of local products and contribute to economic development.

Eighteen prizes, valued a total of more than \$1/4m will be awarded for 1986 to the best performers in six categories. Prizes will be awarded for Export Performance, Import Substitution, Employment Generation, Market Penetration, Science and Technology Invention or Innovation in aid of Industry, and general business activity among small businesses. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Apr 86 p 1] /9274

GOVERNMENT BORROWING LIMIT—The National Assembly yesterday approved the raising of the limit of Government borrowing overseas to \$5b. Approval came, despite opposition by the PPP and WPA, after a brief debate, in which Finance Minister Carl Greenidge explained that the raising of the external loans ceiling was required to ensure it covers the level of loans which might be secured under arrangements previously outlined to the Assembly. The loan ceiling was set in \$500m in 1973 and had been subsequently increased to \$2b. The motion before the House was for approval of the External Loans Order made under the External Loans Act and published in the Official Gazette of last Saturday. Minority speakers in the brief debate were PPP's Dr Cheddi Jagan and WPA's Mr Eusi Kwayana. Both spoke out against the level of Government borrowing and sought clarification on some points from the Finance Minister. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Apr 86 p 1] /9274

SUGAR PRODUCTION—Georgetown, 28 May (CANA)—Guyana's sugar production last week reached 3,905 tons, bringing the first crop total to within 2,000 tonnes of the target. Output now stands at 122,210 tons or 98.4 percent of projected 124,170. The crop was to have been concluded on 16 May, but will continue into the first week of June. The management of the state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation has urged all sugar workers to increase attendance in order to ensure the success of the crop and guarantee tax-free incentives. The industry is now celebrating a decade of nationalization. Among the events have been award ceremonies for the most productive workers and estates. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1419 GMT 28 May 86 FL] /9274

CSO: 3298/474

2 July 1986

JAMAICA

U.S. STATEHOOD PARTY SEEKS VOTE FOR OVERSEAS JAMAICANS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 86 pp 22

[Text]

The Jamaican American Party has asked the Government to amend the constitution to allow Jamaicans residing overseas to register and vote in any future elections.

The Party in a release said it had adopted a resolution to that effect at an executive meeting held on April 9.

The resolution which has been sent to the Prime Minister reads: "Whereas it is estimated that over two million Jamaicans reside overseas and, Whereas a large number of the said Jamaicans have retained Jamaican Citizenship and, Whereas by the retention of Jamaican citizenship they have demonstrated a continued interest and a desire to participate in the affairs of their homeland,

"Be it therefore resolved that the Jamaican Government be written with the request that an amendment be made to Section 37 of the Jamaican Constitution to enable these citizens to be enumerated and registered in their country of domicile and also to allow them to exercise their right to vote in any election held in Jamaica;

"And be it further resolved that a recommendation be made that Jamaican Embassies and Consular Offices be identified as the centres where such enumeration and registration can be undertaken and also to be used as voting centres."

/9274

CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

SEAGA OUTLINES BUDGET PROJECTS, DATA 'TELEPORT' PLANS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ARRANGEMENTS TO LICENSE the operation of a teleport, for high speed transmission of data, have been completed and the complex, which is to be sited in Montego Bay, is expected to get underway shortly.

This was announced yesterday by Prime Minister Edward Seaga as he closed the 1986/87 Budget Debate in the House of Representatives. He also announced reduction in fertiliser prices and the exemption of small inns and lodging houses from the payment of Hotel Room Tax.

With regard to fertiliser, there has been a downward movement in the price of the product as the result of an agreement reached with CIDA (Canadian International Development Aid). This will be reflected in the reduction in the price to farmers, representing savings between 7.7% and 11%, for shipments which have arrived between January and the present time.

"Prices will be reviewed for each shipment, and if the present trend in world market price continues the farmers will benefit from further reductions," Mr. Seaga said.

With respect to the hotel room tax, small inns and lodging houses, which are being exempt, are those where the room rates in respect of all least 80% of the bedrooms do not exceed J\$29 per bedroom per diem, the Prime Minister said.

There has also been a concession for hotels rated as "D", whose minimum summer and winter rates do not exceed US\$29 per bedroom per diem single occupancy European Plan (bed and breakfast).

These "D" hotels will now pay a room tax of J\$150 (as against J\$600 for the bigger places) and an accommodation tax of US\$2 (summer and US\$4 (winter) — as against higher rates for the bigger hotels.

Dealing with the teleport, Mr. Seaga said:

"The Government has now completed the arrangements to licence the operation of a teleport, the first in the Caribbean.

A teleport is a facility dedicated to the telecommunication transmission of data at extraordinarily high speeds — 30 foolscap pages in one second. This has revolutionised the whole field of office management making it possible for major enterprises with large quantities of data to be processed, such as airlines and hotels, to set up overseas offices to process this data in countries where the cost is cheaper, or to contract processing to operations in such countries.

"This has already become a fast growing industry in many parts of the world, even in the Caribbean where one major airline has already set up such an operation in Barbados.

"In Jamaica, the emergence of Jamaican firms able to undertake data entry contracts has been encouraging.

"Such firms have been established over the last two or three years

employing 1,100 workers. Several others are now being established.

"One young entrepreneur who was recently employed to a large data processing firm established contract operations on his own one year ago. Today, he now employs 120 workers.

"But in all this we are only scratching the surface of the vast potential offered by this service industry. Opportunities exist which we have not begun to tap. It was for this reason that Government recently concluded negotiations with a group of American and Japanese investors to enter into a joint venture to establish a teleport in Jamaica.

"In the data-processing field, a teleport is the equivalent of an industrial estate in manufacturing. It is a complex which provides in one location the technological capabilities to receive and transmit data and process it in offices located within the same complex. Among the other facilities it offers is the capability to hold video conferences between parties in different parts of the world.

"If all its available lines are contracted for use it would offer em-

ployment opportunities in the first three years for more than 10,000 persons, earning US\$12.3 million per annum in foreign exchange.

"What is particularly interesting about this proposal is that the category of worker required would absorb thousands of young girls with some typing skills or ability to learn key punching, who cannot be accommodated in the secretarial group.

The arrangements are to site this complex in Montego Bay and link it to other areas in the island requiring its facilities. It differs from Jamitel in that it will not deal with individual calls but will lease its lines to users.

"Government will own 20% of this venture.

"It now only remains to secure the agreement of InterSat, the international regulatory body for satellite telecommunication. As it is anticipated that this might take until 1987 to be obtained, an interim agreement is being sought for a short-term arrangement, in order that operations may proceed.

"Government has already taken the initiative to bring our interest in this matter to the appropriate authorities in Washington."

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CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

CONTROVERSY OVER SEAGA'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Seaga's Defense

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 86 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA on Tuesday dismissed criticisms that the 1986/87 Budget was an "election budget".

Mr. Seaga told Parliament in closing the Budget debate that the 1986/87 Budget was determined from November 1984 in consultation with the International Monetary Fund covering three years.

He added that the large increase in the Budget developed according to planned savings and planned increases determined in 1984 and unplanned oil savings. Mr. Seaga outlined that there were savings of \$285 million due to cuts in costs and increases in revenues of \$495 million, of which oil savings constituted \$300 million.

"Hence whether there was an election or not in the offing, this Budget would be the same because both planned and unplanned increases would have been available for expenditure," Mr. Seaga said.

He told the House that this was not an election budget in the sense that it was designed in large part nearly one and a half years before election, and further improved by oil savings which were unexpected and not part of any possible design.

The budgets for the next two years had already been prepared in outline form as a result of the establishment of a three-year public sector investment programme.

The Prime Minister said that the

Budget was also not a "pork barrel" budget which he described as giving contracts to party faithful without regard to getting value in return. The criticism had come from the People's National Party, he said, as a result of the massive increase in expenditure to \$200 million on roads.

He pointed out that there was a contracts awards committee for all contracts over \$100,000; and performance budgeting now provided cross-checks on physical output which detect all areas of cost overruns, and was a deterrent to funds being diverted from projects.

Performance budgeting was putting an end to "pork barrelling," Mr. Seaga declared. The PNP, he said, was obviously not up-to-date on financial checks and balances.

Mr. Seaga said that the PNP's comments were influenced by the operation of their Crash Programme, Community Enterprise Organisation and Pioneer Corps. He said that very little Crash Programme was in the system. The way had been cleared for the Local Development Programme, for which he gave a break down of expenditure of \$29.7 million last year.

Mr. Seaga also said the "greatest pork barrel of all," some contract operations of the Parish Councils, had been privatised to operate on open contract basis. He spoke of the work of the KSAC under this new situation.

"Pork barrel operations which flourished under PNP is rapidly being replaced with systems of expenditure for which there is greater efficiency, greater accountability. Like many other undesirable ills of the society, 'pork barrelling' is another which is being courageously wiped out by this Government," Mr. Seaga said.

On the Throne Speech Mr. Seaga said:

"The Throne Speech is a statement on performance, projections and policies of Government. It is not a political statement.

"The claim by the President of the PNP that the Throne Speech this year contained political partisan references, refers apparently to a particular reference that 'the basic cause of the problems we face is as a result of the cumulative deficits of the 1970s and the rapid decline in the bauxite industry over the past three years'.

"It is, of course, understandable that the PNP wishes the country to forget the 1970s and the wreckage left behind by them as hazards to be faced by those of us who have to pilot the country through the 1980s."

Seaga Closing Debate

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 86 p 8

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga closed the 1986-87 Budget Debate Tuesday night with these words:

"In the past five years we have taken the country through a comprehensive programme of restructuring the economy. But in many ways although painful, although demanding, although requiring every ounce of courage to take the difficult decisions and to make them stick; although dangerous as we skated on thin ice so many times — in the final analysis the most difficult of all the tasks of restructuring has been to change attitudes. That is where the real restructuring still remains.

"Building a new spirit to face a new age is a task which requires a subtle adjustment process of delicacy and complexity.

"The age from which we have come was one in which the individual's self-confidence and self-worth were to a great extent buried in a reliance on others to produce for him, to provide for him.

"The hardship of life in our country does require that many of our people should be provided for and their welfare protected.

"But the dominant outlook of our country cannot be a reliance on the State; a condition to be reserved for the at risk group, the old, the feeble and those who only too eagerly are searching for a reason to avoid self-development of their own worth.

"We have carefully guided the country to a better understanding of the value of initiative and enterprise as a means of encouraging the emergence of the real self-worth of our people.

"Today we may mirror the image of yesterday's leaders when populist politics directed that leadership above all should provide for everyone's needs.

"But as we move to pioneer a new and exciting passage into a future geared to our own ability to use our

own creativity and initiative to express our self-worth, a new leadership with a bold vision of the future calling on the entrepreneurship of our people to venture, to risk, to carve a new path of their own must guide the way.

New talented breed

"We are proud today that emerging from the wide range of new investments are a breed of new entrepreneurs, young, talented and not afraid to venture, so unlike those who still want the bottle full of milk put to their lips, and when they have drunk, to be burped and rocked to sleep.

"This new young talented breed who manufacture products, grow crops, create new concepts in hotel services, and enter the wide world of opportunity to use the computer as a tool to harness our ability to process and analyse data are the men and women of tomorrow, born in these past five years.

"So too at the smallest scale is the youth in the Solidarity project, the street child who grasps the opportunity to learn and earn, the H.E.A.R.T. trainees for self-employment, no more for employment only, the vendors, higglers and shopkeepers who were stifled in the marketplace in the past and for whom we are now creating conditions to allow them to use these better conditions to prosper.

"Along with this new spirit of self-worth must come the self-discipline that helps to transform our country so that we seek not only for ourselves but others.

"The key to discipline is order. Greater order may come from stricter regulations as we have enforced in the drive to reduce molestation of our visitors and encouraged in the cleaner environment in which today we live.

"The new beauty of our surroundings is the surest and most subtle way to remind us that the old order is changing for something brighter and better and new.

"Inwardly, too, there must be this conscious change to release our energies to create rather than destroy.

"In the world of yesteryear, we

consumed ourselves in political passion. We spent our energies devising ways to overcome opponents in every way.

"Politics like any other area in which there are adversaries who contest positions, must have competitiveness in spirit. But there are some areas of our national life which have cried out for treatment beyond and above politics.

"When we were in opposition, we targeted several such sensitive areas to be placed in the non-political realm and I vowed then to restructure that part of our political system which allowed one party to advantage the other in these sensitive areas simply because they held the handle of power.

"We were successful in getting the first and foremost of these restructured while in opposition when we successfully pressed for the establishment of an impartial electoral system.

Impartial conduct

"Our efforts could have, but did not end there.

"We have since fulfilled all the other objectives of this mission to create impartiality in the sensitive areas of our national life.

"Hence, we have, as promised in opposition, created the positions of Contractor General, and Broadcasting (or media) Commission, to handle those other sensitive areas where politics can upset the delicate balance.

"But how have we done this, not by taking advantage of our singular position in the Parliament to advantage the missing side, but indeed by handing over to the Governor-General our symbol of impartiality, the key element of selecting the people to hold these sensitive posts so that we may be assured of impartial conduct in these delicate areas.

"We did not have to take this position, but we did so rather than hold these powers of appointment as a government ourselves.

"But we have gone one further step of the greatest significance in the same vein.

"We have also voluntarily and

without urging or pressure, handed over to the Governor-General the responsibility too for selecting the Ombudsman and the Members of the Integrity Commission, two further areas of sensitive national affairs.

"I make this point of our own self-effacement and voluntary limitation of our own powers because by these acts we create a greater sense of natural justice in the society, and it is that sense of prevailing justice which makes simpler the task of generating more order in the society, and from that order, not disorder, will spring the new energies and creativity to make us more truly a people of self-worth and a nation of worth.

"All these elements of the grand design are not un-related pieces but parts of a programme to restructure our minds and our conduct to enter

a more disciplined and demanding age.

"I could in closing this debate review the tangible benefits which this Budget brings and as we started with "good news" end it by observing that today's closing message brings still more good news.

"But I choose not to. I chose instead to be mindful of what we have accomplished only as small parts of what yet remains to be done in the intangible areas of our attitudes and values, so that in approaching the 25th anniversary of our independence, next year, we may do so in the wisdom and certainty that we will marshal a greater ability to face the next test of creating a nation that is strong in purpose, enduring in effort, and proud to face the world as a people of a deeper inner strength and a greater self-worth."

Manley: 'Insulting Bribe'

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, yesterday described the 1986/87 Budget as a "bribe" which is so miniscule compared to the sacrifices, that "it amounts to nothing more than an insult to our intelligence."

Mr. Manley was addressing a large audience at the PNP's People's Forum at the Oceana Hotel in which he "closed" the Party's budget debate "opened" by Spokesman on Finance, Mr. Seymour Mullings last month.

He dealt with such areas as privatisation, budget financing percentages of increases after price roll-backs, macro economic policies, call for elections and a warning on the printing of ballots.

Looking at price reductions on basic foods and cement, Mr. Manley said that cost of living had gone up over 100 per cent since 1980. But, he said, counter flour selling at 22 cents per pound in 1980 was \$1.16 in 1986. This was slashed to 82 cents a pound after the Budget, showing a 29 per cent decrease from the 427 per cent increase since 1980.

Corimeal increased 228 per cent between 1980 and 1986 from 25 cents to 82 cents; however it was reduced to 65 cents per pound, a 21 per cent decrease. Bread was also increased 420 per cent between 1980 and 1986, from 74 cents to \$3.85, Mr. Manley said, but was reduced to \$3.40, showing a decrease of only 11 per cent.

The "selfish Government" claimed to have reduced the price of this commodity to \$5.20 per pound, but when they came to power it was \$1.56 per pound, he added. Even with the reduction, the increase over the 1980 price was one of 239 per cent, he said, asking which workers' income had increased by 239 per cent.

"Seaga promises to reinstate price controls to patrol the roll-backs. Who can believe this promise will be anything else but short-term since the dismantling of price controls was one of his major deregulation policies?"

Mr. Manley described as "sheer tokenism," Mr. Seaga's move to reduce interest rates by four percentage points. How many small businesses could borrow money at

30 per cent interest? How many hopeful homeowners can afford 30 per cent mortgage money, he asked.

There was no guarantee that those rates would come down immediately as the financial institutions were tied up with money borrowed at higher rates, he said.

Mr. Manley said electricity rates were reduced by 30 per cent, despite the fact that the price of oil, the most costly input on electricity production, had fallen by 60 per cent.

He questioned whether Mr. Seaga remembered increasing electricity rates by 116 per cent in the space of two months in 1984.

Mr. Manley suggested that if Mr. Seaga was so concerned about the people how about using the windfall money from the oil price to help in the areas of health and education.

"He has not and will not take those steps for a simple reason. He believes that the people are so lacking in intelligence and so hungry that they can be bought by appealing to their most basic instincts — their bellies," Mr. Man-

ley declared to shouts of "not this time."

He said that "this bribe" must and will be rejected by the people. "It is not only an insult to their intelligence but also a crass and vulgar attempt to purchase their support with a pound of salt-fish,"

Mr. Manley said.

Dealing with Mr. Seaga's economic model, Mr. Manley said the country had managed to stand still in six years with 0.3 per cent growth per annum, in spite of massive flows from the United States of America for which he was deeply appreciative.

In real terms Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was less in 1985

than in 1979 since the population had increased. The per capita GDP, Mr. Manley said was lower now than in 1980 which meant that the standard of living had been reduced, Mr. Manley said.

There had been no growth despite borrowing over US\$1 billion and the overall decline was evident in virtually all the productive sectors, he said.

Inflation which according to Mr. Manley was a direct result of Seaga's deliberate deregulation policy of galloping devaluation, had moved from 4.6 per cent in 1981 to 23 per cent in 1985.

The trade deficit had moved from \$213 million in 1980 to \$595 million last year, unemployment grew 26 per cent according to Mr. Seaga's new

index and there was a lack of investment.

Mr. Manley urged that every effort be made to ensure that the Electoral Office obtains the necessary foreign exchange resources to allow it to do its own printing of the ballots under its own roof.

"We believe that the only way to ensure that there is no doubt about the integrity of the system is for the Electoral Office itself to print the ballots under its own roof," Mr. Manley said.

He called on the Government to call the General Elections now because the model which had been given six years had failed.

Further Manley Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 May 86 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA'S POLICY of devaluation and deregulation have exacted an enormous toll on the population, according to the President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley.

Mr. Manley said that despite all the claims of economic recovery, per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had fallen by four per cent between 1980 and 1985 while compensation of employees as a percentage of GDP fell 51 per cent in 1980 to 48 per cent in 1980.

Addressing the People's National Party People's Forum on Thursday at the Oceana Hotel, he said that deregulation was the first example of callous policies which would exact cruel toll on the Jamaican population. Increase in food imports by 44 per cent in 1981 took its toll on Jamaican farmers a year later.

Thousands were pushed to the brink of oblivion in 1982 as domestic agriculture declined 13 per cent.

"No drought, no flood could have been blamed for this decline. Only the silly, callous act of allowing

into the island container loads of potatoes, red peas, etc which our farmers could produce," he said.

The same policies, according to Mr. Manley, had led to the virtual elimination of the footwear industry. Thousands of jobs had been eliminated as a result of the opening up of the market to cheap imports and now the country understood the terrible sacrifice that had to be paid, he said.

Turning to devaluation, he said that the PNP warned that this was inevitable and the Government would not listen and the country had to pay the price. The Consumer Price Index had increased by 94 per cent between 1983 and 1986 while food prices had increased and almost doubled in the same period.

"Devaluation has pushed up the price of virtually every food item. Chicken price has increased so rapidly that demand has fallen by nearly a half. What had become basic food for the ordinary worker has now become luxury for management," Mr. Manley said.

The Government's own Ministry of Health had admitted, he said, that while the minimum wage could about cover the weekly food needs of a family in the late 1970s, in 1985 the minimum wage could purchase only a third of the corresponding food costs.

Mr. Manley declared that it was no wonder that malnutrition, particularly amongst children, was on the increase and also no wonder that the children, too weak to fight any disease, were falling prey to any virus.

"Devaluation has not only affected food but electricity and water rates, the price of books — virtually every item which the ordinary man, woman and child need for survival," he said.

Speaking of devaluation's impact on debt servicing, he said that 42 cents out of every dollar was put towards debt servicing, climbing from 25 cents in 1982. No wonder, he added, that schools and hospitals had to be closed when so much was put into debt servicing.

Touching on high interest rates, he said the rates had forced many small businesses to go under, throwing thousands out of work.

Mr. Manley was critical of the reduction of the budget deficit which he said when implemented together with devaluation had meant a drastic reduction in all government services.

In outlining the PNP's economic strategy, Mr. Manley said the Party would restore confidence and integrity, remove corruption, and reduce political tribalism.

JAMAICA

JLP DEFECTOR'S STATUS VIEWED: SEAGA CITES 'WEEDING OUT'

Wedemire's Resignation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 86 p 1

[Text]

Mr. Howard Wedemire, Member of Parliament for South-East Westmoreland, has resigned from the Jamaica Labour Party.

Following an announcement to this effect by Mr. Wedemire yesterday, the JLP issued a statement signed by party chairman the Hon. Bruce Golding, saying the resignation came as no surprise. It described Mr. Wedemire's performance in the constituency as "dismal".

"As a result, the Party's Selection Committee had taken the decision to consult with the Party members in the constituency to identify a suitable candidate to replace Mr. Wedemire in the next General Elections," said

the statement.

"It is obvious that Mr. Wedemire anticipated this action and opted to resign. His resignation clears the way for the Party to proceed more expeditiously to ensure that it is adequately represented in the constituency of South-east Westmoreland," the statement said.

Mr. Wedemire, a 37-year-old businessman, was elected to Parliament in the 1983 General Elections which were not contested by the PNP. The seat was formerly held by Miss Euphemia Williams, of the JLP, who defeated the then PNP incumbent, Mr. P. J. Patterson, in 1980.

Possible Opposition Role

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The resignation of Member of Parliament Mr. Tony Wedemire from the Jamaica Labour Party has raised questions as to whether he will now become the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives.

Two of Jamaica's eminent attorneys-at-law have expressed the view that Mr. Wedemire is automatically the Leader of the Opposition.

Attorney-at-law and Senator Dr. Lloyd Barnett said Mr. Wedemire

would automatically become Leader of the Opposition. He said that the Governor General had no technical problem in recognising Mr. Wedemire as Leader of the Opposition.

"It means that he's now Leader of the Opposition," says Mr. R.N.A. Henriques another attorney-at-law; "if he remains in Parliament and not with Government Party, it means he's the Opposition."

Mr. Henriques said that if Mr. Wedemire declares that he consti-

tuted the Opposition, then the Governor General would have to recognise him. "I can see lots of problems there," he said.

According to the Constitution Section 80 (2): "whenever the Governor General has occasion to appoint a Leader of the Opposition he shall, in his discretion, appoint the member of the House of Representatives who, in his judgment, is best able to command the support of a majority of those members who do not support the Government..."

In a statement about his resignation, Mr. Wedemire said that as of May 1, 1986 his presence in the House of Representatives as the returned Member for South East Westmoreland would be in the capacity of an independent member since he had revoked allegiance to or with any political party ruling or otherwise in Jamaica.

"With the freedom of speech possible with this independence I shall represent the neglected interests of my constituency forcefully to the Parliament that steps may be taken to focus Government attention on the rapid deterioration of basic infrastructure, especially roads and water supply in deep rural constituencies," Mr. Wedemire said.

Party Chairman Mr. Bruce Golding, however, had described Mr. Wedemire's performance as "dismal" and that the JLP's Selection Committee had taken the decision to consult with Party members in the constituency to identify a suitable candidate to replace Mr. Wedemire in the next General Elections.

But in a counter statement, Mr. Wedemire said it was "amazing" to read the JLP Chairman's reaction to

his resignation. He said that Mr. Golding was in full praise of the work he had done in organising the Party's pre-election 1980 campaign programme in his home parish Westmoreland.

"The Party leadership knows that I have been unstinting in my representations on behalf of my constituency... perhaps the relentlessness of the critical representations became aggravating to him as the lack of positive response was to me.

"It is typical of his leadership that the response should have taken the form of character assassination, imputing wrong and selfish motive of what was my painful decision to resign.

"I repeat my sole reason for resigning was to face the party with the dire needs of the people of rural Jamaica, especially since elections are in the offing," Mr. Wedemire said.

Mr. Wedemire told the Gleaner that he feels that any self-respecting politician would want to rally around issues affecting the rural folks such as bad roads, lack of adequate water supplies and unemployment, if not actively, passively.

He said that the Government's

Local Development Programme (LDP) had exacerbated the condition of the rural poor as Ministers of Government are always referring MPs to the LDP whenever they wanted something done.

And in a statement, People's National Party representative for South East Westmoreland and Party Chairman, Mr. P.J. Patterson said that the Party was forced to note that the PNP and Mr. Wedemire were at one that the constituency had been "grossly neglected and poorly represented."

There had been no progress in any area of life for the people of South East Westmoreland as the JLP Government neglects the homeless, the farmers, the students and the road users.

"South East Westmoreland has indeed been typical of the true situation facing rural Jamaica. All those members of Parliament who have the plight of the people at the heart must in conscience admit that virtually every area of the country is in a condition of abject decay," Mr. Patterson said.

Seaga Comments

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER EDWARD SEAGA warned yesterday that further resignations would not deter the Jamaica Labour Party from weeding out Members of Parliament whom he described as, "bad eggs."

Mr. Seaga made the statement in a reference to the recent resignation of the M.P. for South-East Westmoreland, Mr. Howard Wedemire, as he gave the main address at yesterday's annual meeting of the JLP's Northwest Clarendon Constituency represented by Mr. Clifton Stone which was held at the Edwin Allen School in Frankfield.

Mr. Seaga said that Mr. Stone was a valuable asset to the party and a person for whom he had great regard.

"But not every Member of Parlia-

ment is like that. There are Members of Parliament who are good, there are Members of Parliament who are very good and there are Members of Parliament who are worthless. Some of them are not looking after the people's business. Some of them looking after themselves. Some of them gone mad, mad with what I don't know, whether it is power or not.

"Recently one Member of Parliament belonging to the JLP resigned. I am telling you that we have had to tell a number of them, not many, but a few, that they are not doing a good job and must not expect any further support from the Labour Party and they will not be running again. If they want to resign, resign because

when you have 60 Members in the House you can afford to lose a few.

"So, whether it is because they are not looking after the people's business or, whether it is because they don't understand their role or, whether it is because they are sick and in need of care and attention; whatever be the case, you will hear about a couple more names. All I am saying to you is that it is the intention of the party to clean out the bad eggs.

"Some have said to us, 'we are good Labourites nevertheless and we will step aside and allow somebody else to work the seat.' Others say that they are going to resign. We say that if you want to resign there are no chains binding you to the party.

"It is very important to understand that a party must be run by discipline, and if you can't discipline the party when you have all the members in the House then when are you going to do it?

"If a few of them want to take that step it may solve a different problem, because after that nobody will be able to tell us that we are running a Government in which there is no Opposition."

Other speakers at the meeting included; the Hon. Percival Broderick, Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Errol Anderson, Minister of the Public Service, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, Minister of Labour and Mr. Len Kirby M.P.

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CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

PROBE OF 'HIGH OFFICIALS' FOR LICENSE PLATE SCAM URGED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 12 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PERSONS "IN HIGH AUTHORITY" are renting public passenger vehicle licence plates to operators of private vehicles, Mr. Glen Bloomfield, president of the Citizens' Omnibus Services Association, charged yesterday.

He called on the Hon. Parnell Charles, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, to investigate this without delay. He said the renting of PP plates was rampant within the Kingston Metropolitan Transport System.

Also, the COSA president, called on the Minister "to declare war" on those who were impersonating public passenger vehicle operators.

Mr. Bloomfield was speaking at the quarterly meeting of COSA at The Courtleigh hotel, Trafalgar Road, Kingston.

"I would like to inform you that one of the biggest rackets ever committed in this country is the question of the Public Passenger vehicle plates. I am not talking about the \$250; that is water under the bridge.

"You would be surprised to know that PP plates are being hired. People are renting these plates right now. There are people in the transport system operating buses licensed in Harry's name, while the plate is in Dick's name. It is happening in our package and it is rampant on Route 54," Mr. Bloomfield said.

"It is wrong. It is dangerous, and

the worse thing about it is that these things are being done in very high places." All the necessary steps should be taken to correct the irregularities now, the COSA president urged.

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2 July 1986

JAMAICA

ECONOMISTS ASSESS IMPACT OF NATION'S GROWING FOREIGN DEBT

FL271854 Bridgetown CANA in English 1716 GMT 26 May 86

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, 26 May (CANA)—In popular discussion of the Third World's debt problem, Jamaica's name does not loom large. But local economists say that in many respects this island's U.S. 3.3 billion dollar foreign debt is no less burdensome and holds the seeds for as deep a crisis as any of Latin American nations which regularly catch the headlines.

The debt has doubled since 1980, but the evolution of Jamaica's debt crisis goes back to the early 1970's and the early oil price shock, experts say.

People tend to be attracted by the large numbers so that Jamaica is not instantly perceived to be a critical debtor nation, said Dr Omar Davies, a senior lecturer in the department of economics at the Kingston campus of the regional University of the West Indies (UWI). But the absolute size is not so important if it does not tell the whole story about the debt, Davies said.

For instance, Jamaica's per capita debt is U.S. 1,500 dollars, twice that of Brazil, whose foreign debt totals over U.S. 100 billion dollars. We are on a per capita basis even in a worse position than Mexico, where each person owes about U.S. 1,200 dollars, he added.

But some economists say that even more critical is the fact in 1985 Jamaica's debt payment ratio—what should be paid out to service debts as a proportion of export earnings—was 61.3 percent.

But because of rescheduling, the actual cash pay-out was trimmed to 40 percent of earnings. What this has meant in hard terms is that Jamaica in 1985 paid its foreign lenders U.S. 490 billion dollars out of earnings of U.S. 1,198 billion dollars. Without rescheduling, debt payment would have been U.S. 734 billion dollars.

The debt payment ratio was jumped in time with the growth of the country's foreign borrowings and a decline in its earnings from exports.

In 1975, Jamaica was paying out only 7.4 percent of what it earned from exports to pay its foreign debt, which at that time was U.S. 688 million dollars. But by 1980, the debt had moved to U.S. 1,734 billion dollars, and the debt service ratio had moved to 38.3 percent, though the actual payment was 18.5 percent of earnings.

The situation has deteriorated sharply since then, for by 1983, the foreign debt had jumped to over U.S. 2.9 billion dollars, and despite rescheduling, the actual debt servicing ratio was 28 percent.

Another dramatic reflection of Jamaica's debt, economists say, is its growth as a percentage of both gross domestic product and exports of goods and services.

In 1970, for example, the country's foreign debt was only 15.8 percent of GDP, but by 1980 it had reached 82.2 percent and 154.1 percent, Central Bank deputy governor Dr Owen Jefferson pointed out at a recent debt conference here.

Over the same period the debt as a proportion of exports of goods and services had jumped from 28.6 percent in 1970 to 122 percent in 1980 and 280.1 percent five years later.

Government officials say that Jamaica's increasing debt servicing requirement has been compounded by the marked decline in export earnings, particularly in the key bauxite industry where production moved from 12 million tonnes in 1980 to just over half that amount last year.

Between 1980 and 1985 the value of exports from that sector fell by some 65 percent and after allowing for changes in other sectors the overall decline in exports of goods and services in the five year period was some 16 percent, Jefferson said in a paper presented at the conference.

If exports of goods and services had increased at a very moderate rate of five percent per annum, the debt service ratio on accrual and cash bases would have been 38 and 25 percent respectively, assuming an unchanged level of borrowing, rather than 61 and 40 percent, he said.

And officials point out further that the need for borrowing would have been reduced had exports grown.

In fact, official inflows over the past few years, despite rescheduling, have just about met debt payments with small amounts left to help meet imports.

There has been a net inward transfer of funds which averaged about six percent of the value of imports of goods and services between 1981 and 1984, the Central Bank's Jefferson pointed out at the conference.

According to UWI's Davies, continued inflows of soft money, and importantly, continued rescheduling and refinancing of Jamaica's debt is critical. He estimated that ~~the other current fiscal~~ ^{the current fiscal} year Jamaica will need to reschedule at least the 280 million dollars it managed last year.

We can only hope to survive by rescheduling and refinancing every year and then hope that something will happen to push up exports, Davies said in an interview.

Dr Norman Girvan, a former government director of planning and now an associate research fellow at the UWI's Institute of Social and Economic Research, agrees that Jamaica's crisis is deep.

According to Girvan, massive aid from the United States to the Edward Seaga government since the start of the decade has helped to mask the gravity of the problem.

U.S. assistance to the island over the past five years totalled more than U.S. 700 million dollars, a growing portion of it being outright grants. Without that aid, and the grant element is important, the story could have been quite different, Girvan said.

Officials like to stress the well-structured nature of Jamaica's foreign debt--the bulk of it being medium to long-term loans from official multilateral and bilateral institutions with only a relatively small portion owed to commercial banks.

The official figures, in fact, indicate that since 1980 the multilateral and bilateral institutions have significantly increased their exposure to Jamaica, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of the total debt.

Over the period, their share of Jamaica's foreign debt has moved from 63 percent to 81 percent, or from U.S. 1.04 billion dollars in 1980 to U.S. 2.73 billion dollars in 1985.

At the same time, commercial bank debt has remained steady over the past eight years, hovering around the U.S. 400 million dollar mark. It has, however, dropped as a portion of the total external debt, falling from 25 percent in 1980 to 12 percent last year.

This indicates Jamaica's lack of credit worthiness on the international capital market and the government's heavy reliance on project lending, structural adjustment loans and IMF balance of payments financing over the past 10 years, Girvan noted in a recent paper.

Servicing Jamaica's external debt--the problem compounded by the devaluations in the local dollar over the past few years--has its internal consequences when more than 30 percent of the budget has to be put aside for that purpose. The corollary of this is a rapidly shrinking share of expenditure available for the provision of social services and investment, Girvan said in his paper.

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CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

BANK OF JAMAICA REPORTS 1985 LOSS OF OVER \$1 BILLION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 May 86 p 1

[Text]

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) recorded a loss of over one billion dollars last year. Total loss recorded by the Central Bank for 1985 was J\$1,470,456,622.

In the previous year the figure was J\$679,039,253 which was payable, as in 1985, from the Consolidated Fund of the Government of Jamaica.

The above figures form part of the bank's final accounts, as of December 31 last year, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The document states that exceptional items of losses arising mainly from devaluation of the Jamaican dollar, amounted to J\$776,695,884. In 1984, the loss under that heading was J\$457,604,123.

Operating loss on normal operations was J\$13,330,989 last year. In 1984, it was a profit of J\$261,711,197.

The report explains that increases in local interest costs which resulted mainly from the introduction of economic policy measures contributed greatly to this loss, in so far as operations were concerned.

Interest payment support facilities of J\$680,429,749 coupled with losses on normal operations resulted in net loss on overall operations of J\$693,760,738 before making provisions for exceptional items.

In the previous year, both support facilities and normal operations losses were lower.

The report blames domestic production contraction of 3.7 percent decline in bauxite/alumina exports for the downturn.

Tight monetary and fiscal measures designed to secure an improvement in the balance of payment position, decline in real investment, as well as measures to defend the exchange rate, turned in the year's picture in the figures given.

But it states that the pace in domestic inflation, nonetheless, subsided during the year as the rate declined to 23.3 percent from the previous year's 31.3 percent.

"Present forecasts indicate that the economy should return to a path of positive real growth in 1986", the report states, given lower relative input costs emanating from oil price and exchange rate developments.

"It is expected", it continues, "that exports will provide the major thrust with non-traditional exports targeted to grow by about 15 percent in real terms."

It also anticipated improvements in Caricom trade which should provide an important channel, based on assumptions that trade restrictions in the region will be relaxed in accordance with the Nassau Accord.

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CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

GANJA SMUGGLING THROUGH PORTS STIRS REACTION

Shearer Warning

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Deputy Prime Minister Hugh Shearer warned Sunday that the Government would soon be taking strong action against persons illegally exporting ganja through shipments of legal exports from the island.

Mr. Shearer, main speaker at the North Clarendon JLP constituency conference at Kellits Market, said the situation had reached alarming proportions and packets of fresh foods were being used to ship ganja into the United States and other markets. This was giving the country's exports a "nasty reputation."

He said that a senior U.S. Customs official would be coming here for a meeting with exporters and Government officials at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston tomorrow, at which the situation would be fully discussed.

"This type of behaviour is going to damage our export trade, which will mean damage to our farmers because when the export is cut off the farmers will lose the markets. We cannot allow that to happen. When the (U.S.) Customs suspect or find ganja in packages, they put up a red alert flag, and when that flag goes up against Jamaica's exports the effect of it is that sometimes the fresh produce would have to wait for up to two weeks to be cleared.

"When that fresh produce is packed away in the sun waiting for two weeks to be cleared, the food is spoilt, it is rejected and the farmers suffer a loss of market.

"I want you to understand the repercussions, the hurt and the damage that flows back to you the farmers, why, in the national interest, the Government has decided to take very strong action against the export of this illegal item from the ports and from the airport.

"Right now, as you know, exports cannot leave from the airport without the exporter being certified. We now have to consider methods to protect the exports from the ports in both Kingston and Montego Bay, for the benefit of Jamaica and for the benefit of the farmers.

"I tell you from now, because when we take action our opponents are going to come out and spread propaganda, and I want you to know what is being done. Ganja that you didn't put with your products are being put with the products and when it is detected it is rejected. We are headed for the stage when they could say, 'Jamaica don't send any more fresh food imports into the United States market' and at that time it would be too late for us to reverse the decision. We must stop it and stamp it out from now."

Mr. Shearer also announced steps being taken regarding the negotiation of prices to local farmers for their produce at the farm gate, the H.M. Shields situation and praedial larceny.

He said that the Government was concerned about the benefits that farmers were getting arising out of the substantial improvements in the earnings of export products: "and therefore, through the Ministry of

Agriculture, we are going to be putting into place a Price Forecasting System, where we are going to tell you directly by publication, through the JAS, through the Ministry of Agriculture, the prices for the products, so as to help you in your negotiations with those people who buy your food at the farm gate."

In the Shields situation, where some \$413,000 is owed to local farmers by that U.S. firm for winter vegetables shipped to the firm, the Government has decided that it would pay the outstanding amount owed to the farmers, as part of an arrangement whereby the farmers would then authorise the Government to proceed on their behalf to recover the outstanding sum.

Government Actions

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 86 p 13

[Text]

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, said yesterday that since the beginning of this year over 30,000 lbs. of ganja from Jamaica were seized at ports in the United States.

The threat of a general "import alert" against Jamaican products was becoming increasingly possible, according to Mr. Shearer, who reported that the latest find was last Thursday when "ten tons of cured ganja, expertly concealed in a shipment of 500 bags of cement in two 40-foot containers" were detected.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that only 100 bags of the total amount were genuine cement, while the other 400 contained tightly-compressed ganja in an envelope of cement. He said the recent find was "an efficiently done job which has done us a lot of damage".

Mr. Shearer was speaking at a one-day seminar for exporters and manufacturers, titled "Developing Security Systems for Exporters", held at the Government Conference Centre, in Kingston, organized by the Jamaica National Export Corporation (JNEC) and funded by US/AID.

Jamaica's Trade Commissioner in New York, he said, had reported that in 1985 "in that port alone over 51,000 lbs of ganja" were discovered in shipments originating from Jamaica. He commented: "This is an unacceptable situation."

"To date in 1986 it is with regret that I am informed that over 30,000 lbs. of Jamaican ganja have been seized at U.S. ports — 81,000 lbs. or 40.5 short tons in just 18 months."

"The grave implication for Jamaican exports that arises from this development is, of course, the intensified examination of all Jamaican exports entering the US thereby delaying commercial transactions," Mr. Shearer pointed out.

Dealing with the result of action taken to "crush drug trafficking" locally, the Deputy Prime Minister

said that between January 1, 1985, and March 31, 1986, the Security Forces destroyed 4,801 acres of ganja and seized 198,677 lbs. of cured ganja. A total of 2,013 lbs. of cocaine and 10.5 lbs. of hashish were also seized.

Mr. Shearer went on: "The problem has assumed mammoth proportions. The drug was found among shipments of aggregate, scrap metal, fresh food such as yams and pumpkins, processed foods, footwear, garments, bauxite, alcoholic beverages and in craft items made from wicker into which ganja was woven".

Ten boats and seven planes were also seized and 226 persons were arrested of whom 122 were foreigners.

"The threat of a general import alert against Jamaican products is increasingly possible and the Government will be taking further measures to clamp down on illegal drug export activities by its identification system of exporters and other measures," he declared.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was aware of the fact that if the country was to maximise the benefits to be derived from exports, Jamaica would have to devise security systems to eradicate illegal drugs from legitimate exports.

"To address this problem, I have mandated the Board of the JNEC to conduct research into the type of security arrangements used by exporting entities across the country," Mr. Shearer said.

This research was to identify where the problems had been to date and see what measures were being taken to prevent recurrence, Mr. Shearer said, adding that its purpose was also to examine what other countries were doing in this area.

"On the basis of all this, a comprehensive export security strategy document will be devised for exporting entities, encompassing all stages of the production process through to packaging and shipment. When the

recommendations are made by the JNEC these will be promptly put before the Cabinet for action."

Declaring that the country's export industry was in great danger because of illicit drug involvement, Mr. Shearer charged that *bona fide* exporters of goods were not taking the necessary steps to ensure that ganja and other drugs did not get into their packages.

"We have an obligation to ensure that containers do not include ganja or other illegal drugs. We have to comply with the regulations in imports laid down by countries which we have to send our goods, in the same way that they have to comply by the regulations laid down by Jamaica," Mr. Shearer said.

"We are to ensure that only goods on the manifest are in the containers," he added.

Mr. Shearer said he had instructed the JNEC to regularly submit a list of approved exporters to Customs officials in both Britain and the United States, stating that the officials were cautioned to scrutinize and examine carefully the contents of shipments from any Jamaican shipper not on the list.

Last year, the JNEC received several hundreds of application for certification of recognised exporters, Mr. Shearer said; and upon investigation by JNEC officers it was discovered that 202 applicants were not genuine "for various reasons".

Some of these reasons were false names or non-existent companies and false addresses, he said, adding that past experience had shown that to a large extent these were the entities which were involved in the export trafficking of drugs.

Also speaking at the seminar were the Hon. Carlton Alexander, Chairman of the JNEC; Mr. Geoff Vaughn, of the U.S. Customs; Mr. Reginald Cole, Chief of Security at Air Jamaica; and Acting Superintendent Ian Bent, of the Narcotics

Division of the Jamaican Police Force.

Mr. Alexander said that the problem of drug trafficking was continuing and it must be dealt with now. He told the gathering that, as exporters, the onus was on them to abide by the regulations.

He further urged them to "go the

extra mile by ensuring that our shipments are not vulnerable at any time, whether in the factory, in transit or at the point of departure."

Mr. Alexander said yesterday's seminar was the first of a series to be presented by the JNEC aimed at assisting exporters to keep out of the drug trade.

[Another report on the seminar in the same issue, pages 1 and 3, adds that "Last year the Police Force destroyed 4,160 acres of grown ganja and 205,000 lbs. of cured ganja. Since the beginning of this year, 990 acres of grown ganja had been destroyed and 37,000 lbs. of cured ganja had been seized. A total of 805 lbs. of cocaine was destroyed last year, while for the first four months of this year 10 lbs. had been destroyed."]

Garja Find in U.S.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

TEN TONS OF CURED GANJA, concealed in a shipment of cement, was found by U.S. Customs in a vessel which arrived at the port of Newark, New Jersey, last week Thursday.

A fine of U.S.\$70 million has been imposed on the shipping line involved, the *Gleaner* understands. The identity of the shipping line has not been confirmed, but one report said it is a well-known line which operates out of the Kingston container port.

According to the latest information available on the find, the shipment was made out of Kingston by a local exporter who received an export number from the Jamaica National Export Corporation.

Three men were said to have approached the Caribbean Cement Company to purchase 500 bags of cement for a project in the United States. The purchase was agreed to by the company and the men obtained a letter from the company attesting to the sale.

On the basis of that letter, the J.N.E.C. issued the export number which is a special arrangement re-

quired by Customs.

What happened after that is not clear, but when the vessel arrived at Newark and the shipment was inspected by U.S. Customs it was discovered that only 100 of the bags contained cement. The other 400 contained ganja covered by a coating of cement.

The find was made in two 40-foot containers which were carried on the vessel.

U.S. Customs examined the shipment because, by agreement between Jamaica and the U.S. authorities, any shipment sent from Jamaica by an exporter not on an approved list of

exporters supplied by the J.N.E.C. to the U.S. authorities (as well as to the U.K. authorities and to the local shipping lines) is liable to examination.

Under this arrangement, since the exporter in this case was not on the list the cargo ought not to have been accepted by the shipper for that very reason, the *Gleaner* was told.

Issue of the export number by the J.N.E.C. is a legal formality, but responsibility for export shipment rests with the shipper and, ultimately, with the Customs.

Since the discovery became known, the Jamaican police have started investigation into the matter. It was reported yesterday that three suspects have either been detained or screened off for arrest, but this report was not confirmed.

Mr. Herman Ricketts, Commissioner of Police, said they were following "positive leads", working in conjunction with the U.S. authorities.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 May 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

SHIPPING AGENTS AND CUSTOMS BROKERS yesterday pledged to help in the fight against ganja exports, as they held meetings with the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer.

Comprehensive proposals to deal with perceived shortcomings in security measures on the wharves are to be submitted to the Government by the Customs Brokers Association, following a meeting between the president of the association, Mr. Ivanhoe Ricketts, and the Prime Minister at Jamaica House.

At a meeting at the auditorium of the Jamaica National Export Corporation, the Shipping Association of Jamaica, through its president, Mr. Reginald Smith, welcomed initiatives being taken to tighten up security in the export trade, and stated that the Association would respond quickly.

Following a study of the proposals which are to be made to the Government by the Customs brokers, the Prime Minister will meet a delegation from the Association with a view to formulating action to be taken in the matter of export security, a *Jampress* report said.

Mr. Ricketts discussed with Mr. Seaga further measures which could be taken in the continuing effort to tighten security on the wharves, particularly with regard to the problem of exports of ganja in containerised cargo.

Other matters discussed included the role which the Customs Brokers could play in preventing illicit exports in general and narcotic drugs in particular, as well as steps which could be taken to ensure that only authorised persons were permitted access to the wharves.

At the meeting at the J.N.E.C. auditorium, Mr. Shearer told a group of 65 shipping agents and Customs brokers that an emergency meeting of the J.N.E.C. board had been held earlier that day, at his directive, to consider measures to be taken to improve export security.

Certain measures had been recommended by that meeting and these would be put to the Cabinet

for approval and implementation.

These measures include the licensing and bonding of persons and organisations involved in exporting; amendment of regulations related to port operations; and the introduction of new security procedures.

Mr. Shearer dealt with the shipment of ganja in exports of manufactured goods and agricultural crops from Kingston port, the danger of such illegal activities to Jamaican export expansion, and the role of shipping agents and Customs brokers to counteract these illegal activities.

Mr. Shearer reminded the group that the J.N.E.C. has some 2,700 exporters with export numbers; but only 420 of these were on the approved list of exporters, he pointed out.

He warned shipping agents against accepting shipments from entities not on the J.N.E.C. approved list, and pointed out that any such shipment would be subject to examination at foreign ports of entry.

Urging the agents and brokers to maintain security measures with respect to export shipments, Mr. Shearer also pointed out the vital role that both groups had to play in preventing unapproved exporters from shipping goods from Jamaica.

They would have an opportunity to examine the recommendations of the J.N.E.C. board before these were put to the Cabinet for action, he added.

Mr. Smith pledged the shippers' support, "in the face of recent developments which imperilled the nation's export trade."

Mr. Claude Clarke, president of the Jamaica Exporters Association, and Mr. Paul Thomas, president of the Jamaica Manufacturers Association, were present at the meeting, which was chaired by the Hon. Carlton Alexander O.J., chairman of the J.N.E.C.

Also present were Mr. Peter King, J.N.E.C. Chief Executive; Mr. Tom Simpson, Director of Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; and Mr. Noel Hylton, Chairman of the Port Authority.

Search for Suspects

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 86 p 1

[Text]

Local Immigration authorities are on the lookout to detain three Jamaicans suspected to be involved in the big ganja shipment seized by U.S. Customs, if they attempt to leave the island.

And as Jamaican police, working with the U.S. authorities, push investigations into the case, local top level police investigators are to go to the United States to help in investigations from that end, the **Gleaner** learnt yesterday.

It is understood that three Jamaicans have been screened off from this end in connection with the giant shipment, but local police are tight-lipped about their investigations at this time.

U.S. Customs at Newark, New Jersey, U.S.A., on Thursday, May 8, checking a cargo of cement on a ship reportedly from Port Bustamante found ten tons of ganja among the cargo.

Of 500 bags of cement, only 100 contained only cement. The other 400 had compressed ganja sur-

rounded by cement.

U.S. Customs slapped a US\$70-million fine on the shipping line. Up to yesterday, however, the name of the ship involved, or the local shipping agent, was unavailable as officials kept silent, and the **Gleaner** learnt that there was a "news embargo at this end and in the U.S." by certain authorities.

But it was learnt that the 'cement' cargo was bound for Philadelphia via Newark.

At Newark, because the shipment did not have official Government certification, the U.S. Customs searched the load and came across the big ganja find.

The Jamaican police, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (USDEA) have been working on the case since then.

Latest word on these investigations, from PIC yesterday, was that "investigations so far, both locally and overseas, have resulted in positive leads which are being actively pursued."

Opposition Questions in Senate

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 86 p 3

[Text]

Opposition Senator Charles Sinclair tabled questions in the Senate on Friday directed at the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade on the circumstances surrounding the shipment of 10 tons of ganja to the United States.

Senator Sinclair is asking:

"Who was it that prepared and processed the manifest for a shipment on cement to the United States, which was later discovered by the U.S. authorities to be ganja?"

"Is the JNEC (Jamaica National Export Corporation) kept fully advised of the details of shipments of

export commodities by private and public exporting companies?"

"Is there a system in place to carry out a physical inspection of goods for export before actual loading is done?"

"If the answer to Part 3 of the question is in the affirmative, will the Minister give to this Honourable House details of the date of inspection, and by whom was the inspection carried out?"

"Is there any trace of similar consignments from Jamaica to the particular consignee identified and referred to by the Minister of Foreign Trade?"

2 July 1986

Ganja Find at Port

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 86 p 1

[Excerpt]

As the security forces step up action against drug traffickers, police seized 2,000 pounds of cured ganja at a warehouse on Third Street, Newport West, Port Bustamante at about 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, the Police Information Centre said yesterday.

A large portion of the drug was found in a big metal tank and the remainder in bags beside the tank, PIC said. No one was arrested and the narcotics police are continuing investigations.

Monday's find was the latest big haul of ganja at Port Bustamante and comes less than two weeks after police in the United States seized a record 10 tons of ganja concealed in what was ostensibly a cargo of cement shipped from Port Bustamante.

No one has yet been held in connection with this seizure but police earlier this week said that three Jamaicans were being sought by local police for questioning in connection with the ganja shipment.

Members of the Jamaican police are also to go to the United States to assist in investigations from that side.

With the crackdown on ganja trafficking out of the airports, especially the Norman Manley Airport in Kingston, drug smugglers in recent months have apparently shifted their activities to Port Bustamante.

Concerned about the growing trafficking through this port, the authorities have begun mapping strategy to combat the drug dealers. Several new measures aimed at detecting and seizing ganja before it leaves Jamaica have been put in place but details of these have not been disclosed for security reasons.

/9274

CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

PNP STATEMENT VOICES CONCERN OVER POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 May 86 p 3

[Text]

The People's National Party has expressed concern at "escalating violence" in the district of Falm in central Clarendon where a woman was slain in a political clash last Friday.

A statement issued on Sunday by Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary, said the party is "very concerned at what appears to be organised acts of intimidation and violence" which it said is escalating in the district of Falm on the main road between May Pen and Sevens in Central Clarendon.

The statement said that the incidents began on Wednesday when intimidation was used to try to prevent Party supporters from going to and returning from a PNP public meeting in May Pen. It said the intimidation "escalated" into repeated road blocks and the throwing of stones and bottles at PNP supporters living in and passing through the district on Thursday.

"Subsequently, the homes of residents were invaded by a gang of gunmen who severely damaged their furniture, and culminated ultimately in the murder of 24-year-old Miss Claudia Daley who was pregnant," the statement said.

The PNP alleged that Miss Daley had been threatened on Thursday by a gang of gunmen, had reported the matter to the May Pen Police and

had gone to make arrangements to leave the area but was killed on her return to Falm.

The PNP called on the police to intensify their investigations to bring Miss Daley's killers to justice.

The release said "The PNP brought the incidents which took place prior to the murder of Miss Daley to the attention of the Jamaica Council of Churches for its meeting held on Friday. However, in view of the serious and tragic subsequent events, the matter is being reported to the Jamaica Association of Evangelicals, the Jamaica Association of Pentacostals, the Full Gospel Assembly, as well as the Council. The Party also reported the matter to the Commissioner of Police."

The PNP also said its candidate for the Central Clarendon Constituency for General Elections, Mrs. Donna Scott-Bhoorasingh, "has been subjected to threats and harassment by political activists in the Falm district" and that her family has also been threatened and intimidated.

The Party re-stated its repudiation of the use of violence "of any degree or form which is used to attempt to intimidate supporters of either political party, and urges the leadership of the JLP to recognise the need to maintain the excellent relations which have developed between both Parties at the Electoral Advisory Committee and at other fora."

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CSO: 3298/466

JAMAICA

PNP WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY UNDO ACTIONS OF JLP

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 May 86 p 3

[Text]

The President of the People's National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has said that a PNP Government would not automatically "take back over" an activity merely because it was privatised by the Jamaica Labour Party.

Mr. Manley told the PNP People's Forum at the Oceana Hotel on Thursday that a future PNP Government would be guided by certain principles and a lot of commonsense.

He said: "Where privatisation has worked as in the case of keeping Kingston clean, we will retain it. We will make sure that the poorest sections of the city are not ignored.

"Where it has failed we may be obliged to organise the activity under a new form of ownership if it is felt to be important — Southern Processors comes to mind.

"Where the privatisation runs counter to our fundamental principles, we reserve the right to reverse the policy. For example, there are certain beaches that are vital to the public. So, too, certain hospitals. We reserve the right to undo privatisation but naturally pledge to act in strict accordance with the Jamaican Constitution and laws which protect the property rights of individuals."

Mr. Manley declared that the PNP had no programme of nationalisation; however, he said the PNP felt that it was important for the State to have a significant presence in the

field of banking.

It was both wise and necessary, he said, for the State to maintain some presence in the commercial banking system through which investment capital could be directed to strategic objectives which did not necessarily conform to the strict criteria of short-term profitability.

A bank which might be owned either wholly or in the majority by the Government must not in any way be subjected to any form of political interference with its operational methods or day-to-day working.

Once special areas of strategic importance had been identified, a bank in these circumstances must be guaranteed absolute integrity and absolute security from interference, he said.

In respect of the National Commercial Bank (NCB), Mr. Manley said the PNP would have no objection to shares amounting to less than majority control being offered to the public, and particularly in small holdings such as small blocks of shares to institutions like trade unions and co-operatives; to employees of NCB or a mixture of these.

Mr. Manley said that the PNP would not, however, accept as a government the total privatisation of the NCB.

"We reject the notion that there is any reason in principle or commonsense why the NCB should be privatised," he said.

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CSO: 3298/466

2 July 1986

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

DOCTORS WAGE ACCORD—Junior Doctors voted last night by an overwhelmingly majority to accept conditionally, the wage offer by the Ministry of Public Service. Neither the offer nor the conditions were made known last night. Acceptance came at a meeting of the Junior Doctors Association at the Doctors Quarters, University Hospital, Mona. The salary dispute between the Junior Doctors and the Government has dragged on for months, and has resulted in industrial action, mainly in form of work-to-rule which on different occasions had severely affected the hospital service. The doctors are to meet again with Mr Anderson this evening after which it is expected that they will seek a meeting of the tribunal before weekend to rarify the agreement. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 May 86 p 3] /9274

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WAGE HIKE—An increase of 37-1/2 percent across the board for workers in the building and construction industry has been awarded by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal. The award was given on the wage claim made by the workers, through their unions, on the Incorporated Masterbuilders Association. Retroactive to February 1, 1985, the award was made by the Tribunal last Thursday, May 8, but was only made known to the Masterbuilders yesterday, when they received their copy of the award. Confirming fears that the award might prove damaging to the industry, in terms of increasing the cost of operation, the size of the award caused alarm among members of the industry as well as members of the public, when they heard of it. An increase of nearly 40 percent on present wage levels in the industry, already regarded as high, plus double-time payment for work done on Saturdays, Sundays and on Public Holidays, will push building costs to greater heights. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 May 86 p 1] /9274

COPRA PRODUCTION—Copra production in 1985 increased by 87% over that of 1984, Mr Peter Mc Connell, Chairman of the Coconut Industry Board (CIB), said on Saturday. He also said that over five hundred farmers are now delivering coconuts for copra. However, he said, many farmers were using the Board as a "boops" and as a result changes had been introduced so that the Board could become a "boopsie." [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 May 86 p 22] /9274

CSO: 3298/466

2 July 1986

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

PAPER URGES SEPARATION OF POLITICS, TRADE UNIONISM

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 3 May 86 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

As the defeated Labour Party feverishly mounts yet another assault on the patience and tolerance of the people of St. Kitts to stage its annual Holiday March, signs of misleadership and hypocritical grandstanding again stand out glaringly for all to see. THE DEMOCRAT's own advertisement in its own Newspaper billing the holiday as MAY DAY and PAM DAY appears to haunt and irritate the likes of the Labour Misleaders no end, and even to move them to writing long and heated diatribes complaining that THE DEMOCRAT is using these expressions in its free press.

We know as well as any Labour Misleader that the origin of the holiday is to celebrate workers internationally. But we have come to realise that as a result of the era of tyranny and oppression of the Labour Party regime, Labour Day unfortunately has come to be associated with the dictatorship and contempt for workers maintained by the unsympathetic Labour Misleaders. It is precisely because of our desire to salvage the dignity and self-respect of our people why we refrain from the use of the term Labour Day, and promote the expression MAY DAY. And in our view, if the Labour Party continues to insist that the holiday is Labour's Day, we will counter that suggestive interpretation as we fit.

The Misleaders can march from one end of the island to the other, that does not substitute by one iota interest in workers for their customary unconcern. It will forever remain an acute embarrassment to the defeated Labour Party that after 28 years continuously in Government, and nearly 40 years as a Trade Union, the Labour Party failed to introduce

any comprehensive Labour Code into the House of Assembly. This omission is a blot on the record of politicians who pretend to care about job protection, severance pay, and decent compensation for the injuries of our citizens in the workplace.

The defeated Labour Party, on the contrary, has used and manipulated the workers in this country without shame or conscience for the advancement of their shoddy political ambitions, and greedy financial gain. One of the worst examples was their abuse of the mechanism which they inserted into their unconstitutional Sugar Lands Acquisition Act of 1975 to "exempt" certain village and other lands from "Sugar Cultivation" for political and personal profiteering. Their gain was grasped at the expense of the workers unless they happened to be stooges and henchmen of the Misleaders. Equally bad, and more blatantly oppressive to workers, was the unconstitutional deduction of forced Union Dues which trampled upon the Protection of Wages Act 1967 and became a device for a "closed shop" principle for hiring workers, and enriching the Union unjustly. WHERE THAT MONEY WENT? What Labour Day? Labour ain' day no way! The workers of this country must never forget that the Labour Party here is a political organisation masquerading as a workers league. Let them therefore march for the separation of politics and Trade Union in this country !!!!

/9274

CSO: 3298/470

2 July 1986

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

UPM MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—The United People's Movement (UPM) is embarking on another recruitment drive. General Secretary and Political Leader of the Party, Comrade Oscar Allen, disclosed this to JUSTICE earlier this week. He said that local political conditions are very favourable for such a drive. "Many persons have been approaching us" he said, "enquiring about membership and what they can do in terms of building a strong progressive alternative to the politics of the NDP and SVLP." "Large selections of our working people have become disillusioned with the performance of the NDP," Comrade Allen went on. "More and more they are beginning to realise that the policies of the NDP are no real alternative to the discredited ones on the Labour Party. They are slowly coming to realise that Big Man Rule is not over," the UPM Leader pointed out. As head of the Party's Organisation Committee, Allen is spearheading the recruitment drive. As part of this drive, Party Leaders have scheduled visits to targeted areas. Party leader Allen said, that the UPM's door is always open to honest, patriotic Vincentians, concerned about playing their part in bringing equality, democracy and development to our country. [Text] [Kingstown JUSTICE in English 21 May 86 p 4] /9274

CSO: 3298/471

2 July 1986

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NEW GULF PATROL AIMS AT VENEZUELAN, DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 May 86 p 7

[Text]

POINT FORTIN — THE POLICE are now using the launch Seahawk in their bid to catch drug pushers and other persons carrying on illegal trade in the Gulf of Paria between the south western peninsula and Venezuela.

According to Rep. Cyril Rogers (PNM — Point Fortin), the Seahawk is based at Trinmar for the time being and is equipped with a radio and has a three-member crew, all policemen. He went on board on Monday.

The Seahawk would also be of assistance to Trinidad fishermen in difficulties with the Venezuelan authorities, Mr. Rogers, President of the Cedros Fishing Co-operative Society, added.

Kept His Promise

He said that when Minister of National Security Overand Padmore visited Cedros and Icacos recently, he promised to look into the possibility of having a Police launch stationed at Cedros.

Mr. Rogers was pleased that the

Minister kept his promise by making the Seahawk available.

He said he also made representations for improved lighting on the Cedros beach including the jetty where boats with outboard engines were anchored.

Boat owners were complaining about theft.

Boats Released

Meanwhile, two fishing boats, one from Icacos and the other from Cedros, which were seized by Venezuelan authorities last Friday, have been released.

The owners paid fines imposed and returned home on Monday evening with the boats.

Mr. Rogers said one of the owners was fined 25,000 bolivars (TT \$5,000) for shrimping without a permit but he pleaded with the authorities and eventually paid 4,000 bolivars (TT \$800).

The other boat owner paid 1,500 bolivars (TT \$300) for shrimping outside the designated area.

Three Icacos fishermen who left Guiria last Friday, instead of returning home, went to Carupano where two men held and charged in connection with the hijacking of a boat were due for trial.

Oli Mohammed, owner of the boat

Anthony (TFS 1666) and two men were in Venezuelan waters when the boat was hijacked by two men a few weeks ago. All three were forced to jump into the sea and they swam about half mile to the mainland.

The boat was located in Guiria and the authorities there held two men, one a Venezuelan and the other a Trinidadian, and charged them with the hijacking.

It was reported that Mohammed was assisting the hijackers by taking them from Icacos to Venezuela.

Mohammed and his two friends are expected home by today according to Mr. Rogers.

/9274

CSO: 3298/475

2 July 1986

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GUARDIAN SEES PROMISING SIGNS IN HOYTE'S GUYANA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 May 86 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

So while we welcome the Guyanese move to revive the spirit of enterprise that built the nation in the first instance, we have to point it out as an example to those in our midst who still have illusions about the superiority of socialism and Marxism in terms of economic and social organisation.

Burnham's foolhardy experiment has transformed Guyana from the potential food basket of the region into a "basket case". It is now one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, falling into the class of Haiti and Bolivia.

Its foreign reserves have plunged to zero, its per capita income has dropped by 25 per cent in the last four years and its total debt servicing amounts to three quarters of all it produces.

Malnutrition is widespread, as Burnham's policy of "Eat what you grow" has meant in practice starve on what you grow.

Public services have all but collapsed, with water, health and electricity services being shadows of what they were. The brightest citizens have abandoned the country in droves, and there is an estimated population decline of two per cent per year. That is the legacy of Burnham's socialism.

Welcome Sign

Guyana's human rights record is as pathetic as its economic programme, with harassment of the Press, electoral fraud and unjust laws being well known violations.

Trinidad and Tobago may have played a greater role in the change in Guyana than many may realise. When Prime Minister George Chambers in January cut off the oil credits that had kept Guyana alive for years, President Hoyte saw the destruction of his country looming.

Fuel shortages caused widespread unrest as transport reverted to donkey carts and kitchens went back to coalpots.

It took the threat of a reversion to the nineteenth century to bring Guyana's rulers into line.

The country still has a long way to go before it can be considered a genuine part of the democratic group of Caribbean nations. But the new role that Hoyte's government seems willing to accord the private sector is a welcome sign that Guyana is no longer committed to the path of self destruction. We are confident that the immediate and long term results of granting free enterprise a bigger developmental role will take Guyana away from the brink and towards a more acceptable and sounder future.

The year 1986 has brought welcome news for most citizens of Guyana with the announcement that their government had re-discovered the private sector.

After a dismal 20-year experiment with socialism, tight, centralised control of the economy and deliberate restrictions on privately owned businesses, the Guyana government, it seems, has finally begun to realise the error of its ways.

Early this year President Hoyte spoke of a new role for the much neglected and abused private sector. He then praised the Lions Organisation of Guyana, and introduced laws to allow offshore banks to operate in the country.

Prime Minister Hamilton Greene went to the United States and told black mayors that he wanted United States investment in his country.

Reforming Scope

The Finance Minister has also decided to woo tourists, presumably to help earn more of that foreign exchange that Guyana needs so desperately, and American companies have been invited to survey for oil.

All this, of course, is a sharp turn away from the late President Forbes Burnham's Marx-

ist policies that saw the state assume control of 80 per cent of the country's economy. It appears that President Hoyte has decided to follow the example of his Chinese comrades and is allowing pragmatic considerations and common sense to override ideology.

No sooner had the late Chinese leader Mao Tse Tung died than his successors shifted from his sterile socialist policies and provided considerable and reforming scope for private enterprise. In the same way, Burnham's death on August 6, 1985, was eventually followed by a significant change in his "co-operative republic" programme of 1970.

In both cases the reason may well be the same — a realisation that doctrinaire Marxist policies have failed miserably in generating the kind of economic growth and prosperity its founders had anticipated, that instead of overwhelming the "decadent" capitalism of the West, the regimented and totalitarian system had found itself mired in corruption, inertia and poor productivity.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NINE ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES TERMED CRITICAL TO PNM

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 May 86 p 2

[Text]

THE People's National Movement's (PNM's) chances are "critical" in nine constituencies now held by the party, according to an analysis prepared by party activists on prospects for the general election.

These constituencies are Port of Spain North, St Joseph, Tunapuna, Nariva, Caroni East, San Fernando West, Pointe-a-Pierre, Princes Town, and Fyzabad.

Fifteen seats are considered "safe."

The critical constituencies are currently represented in Parliament by Overand Padmore, Sham Mohammed, John Scott, Hardeo Hardath, Manic Ramsaran, Errol Mahabir, Winston Hinds, Amoy Mohammed, and Winston Williams respectively.

The report, handed in to the PNM's Elections Strategy Committee, is based on results of the 1981 general election and does not take the results of the 1983 local government election.

Constituencies described as "marginal" in the report are: Diego Martin Central, Barataria, Tobago East and Tobago West.

Those described as safe, because there was a substantial PNM majority in 1981, are: Diego Martin West, Diego

Martin East, Port of Spain South, Port of Spain East, St Ann's West, St Ann's East, Laventille, San Juan, Arouca, Arima, Toco, Manzanilla, San Fernando East, Ortoire-Mayaro, La Brea, and Pt Fortin.

Considered safe Opposition seats: St Augustine, Chaguanas, Couva North, Couva South, Naparima, Tabaquite, Oropouche, Siparia.

The party's report was compiled before the recent Elections and Boundaries Commission's (EBC's) report was published, and boundary changes made, which may mean a revision of views expressed.

2 July 1986

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PROBLEMS IMPEDING LABOR MOVEMENT UNITY REPORTED

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 25 May 86 p 6

[Text]

THE Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress has just completed a document on labour unity which it will submit shortly to the Council of Progressive Trade Unions, as both labour federations try once again to reach across the breach that is crippling the labour movement in this country.

But as the diplomacy continued last week, the frustrating feelings of mistrust and of resentment persisted, with both factions conceding that the time may have come and gone for workers' representatives to close ranks in the same way they say that employers have done.

Carl Tull, Secretary General of the Congress, disclosed further that his executive had also prepared a paper calling for two substantial amendments to the Industrial Relations Act which, if accepted by the CPTU, would be put to the next round of the tripartite talks at the end of the month.

But come June 19, the Congress would be holding its Labour Day celebrations in Arima this year while the CPTU would stay in Fyzabad, where they believe Labour Day celebrations should be held every year, and nowhere else.

"This is the kind of situation you are dealing with," fumed David Abdulah, the Jamaican-born Education and Re-

search Officer of the Oilfields' Workers Trade Union, one of the front-line unions in the CPTU, and the union which insists that Fyzabad is the birthplace of the labour movement in this country. But Abdulah is also a member of the political organisation known as the Committee for Labour Solidarity, a group which other trade unionists charge with wanting to hijack the labour movement for its own subversive purposes.

He said there had been several meetings initiated by CPTU personnel over the last three years ("We have the correspondence to prove

it."), seeking greater unity in the movement, and again this year, the issue of a single Labour Celebration was discussed, "and representatives from several Congress units were there and agreed to this. But what happened? We saw the Congress announcing later that they were going to Arima this year."

"Them fellas not serious about labour unity. They want to control everything and when they cannot control they would destroy," one disgusted Port of Spain based trade unionists said, when asked about the CPTU, the CLS and labour unity last week.

"What do you think is behind the struggle in TTUTA (the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association) and Pan Trinbago," this trade unionist said, also pointing to the fact that the Bank and General Workers Union, one of the organisations which revived the CPTU, left and joined the Congress

last year. "That was a bold move for unity. Others should follow suit."

More than one professional observer has suggested that while trade unionists on both sides of the gap accuse the government, international forces even, of keeping the movement divided, it is in fact the ideological divergence among various trade union leaderships and the different perspectives they have which keep them apart and tearing at each other's throats.

"It is inconceivable," one observer said, "that they (the so-called progressive trade unions) could be interested in co-operating with employers under the present system because they are ideological opposed to the capitalist system."

"The ideological differences are not the dominant factor in the disunity question," said Cecil Paul, CPTU General Secretary and second vice-president of the OWTU.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAJOR PARTIES STEP UP PREELECTION CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jun 86 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

THE TWO main opponents in the forthcoming general elections — the date for which is still to be announced — the ruling People's National Movement and the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) stepped up their pre-campaign activities over the weekend.

An official of the PNM declined to term the party's unprecedented holding of 12 meetings in one day (Saturday) as putting the party on an election-footing.

"Let's say we are oiling the machinery for that eventuality," was how the source described the simultaneous sessions which were addressed by no less than seven Government Ministers.

NAR threw its weight behind "Operation Blitz" in the three Diego Martin constituencies (Central, West and East) on Saturday and yesterday. These districts are traditionally PNM strongholds. NAR held spot meetings and distributed literature.

And in a somewhat surprising development, the small and Left-leaning People's Popular Movement (PPM) led by former trade union leader Michael Als, has announced it would be contesting the polls, constitutionally due by February next year.

The PPM would be contesting seats in the East-West corridor and in Central Trinidad.

Keep Heads Cool

At the Barataria Community Centre, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator Russell Martineau, called on PNM members and supporters to keep their heads cool in preparation for the polls.

Advising them to study carefully the polling divisions as contained in

the Elections and Boundaries Commission's latest report, the Attorney General, who gave no indication whether he was interested in being a PNM candidate added: "When that time comes we must deal with issues in the election campaign and leave out personalities. We must not get to the point where persons are calling others 'contemptible' and talk about hanging. We must keep our campaign at a decent level."

Errors On List

Stressing that the PNM must now blow its trumpet about the good things the Government had been doing, Senator Martineau, whose name is being called as a possible candidate — along with Senator Wendell Mottley and Senator John Eckstein, Ministers of Industry and Commerce and Health respectively, contended:

"People tend to forget the good things we have done such as the Mount Hope Medical Complex, the construction of the Hall of Justice and the Financial Complex.

"We must remind the country of our achievements because any little thing

or project done by anyone else for the benefit of the community is usually highlighted, whereas the things done by us, no matter of what significance or magnitude, people tend to take them for granted."

On complaints about errors in the list of electors, particularly the names of the dead still on the list, the Attorney General promised to ascertain whether legislation was needed to assist the Elections and Boundaries Commission in receiving prompt reports when an elector died.

According to the election office of the San Fernando West Constituency of the PNM, no house-to-house campaign was being conducted in the constituency.

Check At Homes

"What is happening is that members of the constituency are going to various homes checking on the registration status of electors. No candidate has been selected to contest the seat so no one could be campaigning house to house," it was stated.

Dr. Beau Tewarie, NAR General Secretary, commenting on "Operation Blitz" said yesterday: "The exercise was completely successful and we were really pleased with the turnout and this speaks volumes for what can be expected."

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PORT AUTHORITY CITES DROP IN CARGO HANDLING SINCE 1983

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 26 May 86 p 1

[Text]

PORT AUTHORITY Chairman Eustace Bernard has said that the throughput of cargo on the wharves has fallen 84 per cent since 1983.

Mr. Bernard was speaking at a media conference last Friday concerning the financial problems currently besetting the State-owned utility. Proposals which the Authority put to the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Trade Union last week in an effort to resolve the crisis have been refused.

The Chairman said that the declining economy and devaluation had produced a slump in the shipping industry. In addition, 75 per cent of the incoming cargo is now containerised — due to increased conventional cargo rates — and this has further reduced tonnage.

He pointed out that the throughput of cargo at the Port declined from a peak of 1.8 million tons in 1983 to 1.2 million tons in 1985. Estimates indicate a further shortfall for 1986, to a figure of one million tons.

Cost-cutting Plans

As a result, the Authority sent home a total of 19,111 men between January — March 1986 with full pay totalling \$2.9 million.

However, Mr. Bernard stressed that the utility may be unable to pay workers by monthend if the SSWTU does not consider some of the cost-cutting proposals it has presented. These include:

- Maintaining the existing rates of overtime on weekends and public holidays, but keeping the time limit to 4 p.m. on Saturday only.
- Absorption of guaranteed workers by splitting them into two groups, one operating from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and another from 2 - 7 p.m.
- Removal of penalties and incentives which cost the Port during 1985 alone to a total of \$2.9 million.

Mr. Bernard said the proposals will be put before the Port's Board of Commissioners, and if they are supported, management will approach the Ministry of Labour for conciliation on the matter.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT REPORTS 4-MONTH INCREASE IN EXPORTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 86 p 1

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO — THE EXPORT trade for the first four months in Trinidad and Tobago was up some 19 per cent from what it was during the same period last year, Industry and Commerce Minister Wendell Mottley said yesterday.

He said the figure was up from \$1.67 billion to \$2 billion in the period January to the end of April.

But even more significant, said Senator Mottley, was the fact that if oil and the energy chemicals like ammonia were excluded, the performance was even more remarkable.

With the exclusion of such items he said exports were up \$100 million to \$178 million in the same period over last year, which was an increase in one year alone of over 71 per cent.

In those figures, he explained, "you have got to reckon on just short of \$60 million for sugar, but most of the others are in the straight manufacturing sectors such as we have been visiting."

He said the performance was quite a remarkable achievement, and as such had clearly set the directions which would push the

Trinidad and Tobago economy.

Regular Routine

Senator Mottley was, at the time, reporting to the media, following yesterday's rounds of visits to manufacturing firms by Prime Minister George Chambers.

The Prime Minister and party had just completed another leg of their tour to three export-oriented firms in Central and South Trinidad.

The Minister said he wished to place on record the significant amount of action taken since the visits began.

He also said the work permit issue has been placed on a regular routine footing; certain diet soft drinks were coming into the market, and the inputs committee of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce was looking at packaging and other local material into export products.

Complaints about backlog in licences has been cleared as of last Friday, the Minister said, while he reported that non-problem licences were being cleared on a 48-hour schedule.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

RICE SUPPLY PROBLEMS BRING COMPLAINTS FROM RETAILERS

Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 2 Jun 86 pp 1, 3

[Text]

SUPERMARKET owners in the south have complained that they are unable to get their full quota of local or imported rice from the Rice Mill at Carlsen Field.

Gobin Sookdeo of Miracle Food World Ltd in Debe, South Trinidad, told the *Express* San Fernando Desk that for the past few weeks he had been experiencing problems in getting rice.

Sookdeo said his normal quota of 324 bags of rice had been reduced to a mere 10 bags and the problem had been further intensified with the "rude and outlandish manner" of the employees at the rice mill.

Sookdeo said the rice mill had offered no explanation to customers as to the shortage of rice and even though National Flour Mills (NFM) had the sole right to import rice, there was still a shortage.

Sookdeo said it was now uneconomical for supermarkets to sell rice to the public. He said the mark-up profits on rice had been at a minimum, but grocers were forced to send a truck to the mill for three and four days in order to get 10 bags.

He added the grocer had to pay for the trucks and loaders out of the already small

mark-up price.

"It is a waste of time now to sell rice so far as the businessman is concerned. What we need is a lot more efficiency at the mill and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce," said Sookdeo.

Sookdeo said if the present situation continued customers would not be able to get rice even though NFM may have rice stored.

He said NFM Chairman Jack De Lima should make a statement on this issue.

"The point is that we, the supermarket operators, cannot get our quota of rice and we want to know the reason for this," Sookdeo added.

Last week, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce cancelled all licences for the importation of rice. It was learnt that police investigations into the illegal importation of rice were continuing.

Already officials from the ministry have been disciplined in connection with the illegal activity, a report said.

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

BOAT SEIZURES—Cedros—The Venezuelan authorities last Friday seized two Trinidad fishing boats and took them to the mainland. The owners of the boats had no permits to shrimp in Venezuelan waters. The captains and crew members were released and have returned to Cedros. Meanwhile, the fishing boat "Anthony" (TFS 1666) which was hijacked a few weeks ago in Venezuelan waters by two men, was released by the Venezuelan authorities at Guiria last Friday. The owner, Oli Mohammed of Icacos, was on hand to receive the boat but up to yesterday he had not returned home with two other men for Icacos. As a result, Rep Cyril Rogers (PNM-Point Fortin), President of the Cedros Fishing Co-operative Society, said yesterday that the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and the helicopter service were informed. Mohammed and four other men went to Guiria in connection with the matter. Two of the men have since returned. Mohammed and two others remained to identify the boat and two men held by the Guiria authorities in connection with the hijacking. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 May 86 p 7] /9274

CHAMBERS-LABOR TALKS—Prime Minister George Chambers holds a special meeting with labour representatives next Tuesday at Whitehall. Matters affecting the local labour scene will be discussed. Present will be Senators Vernon Glean and Nathaniel Crichlow. Also expected are Carl Tull of the Labour Congress; Labour Minister John Donaldson; Astil Salandy, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour; and Dr Zin Henry, Special Adviser to the Ministry. The meeting gets under way from 3 p.m. [Text] [Port-of-Spain DAILY EXPRESS in English 23 May 86 p 2] /9274

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